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US again vetoes UN Har Homa vote

Page 14

Judaica print shop on a disk

Science & Technology, Page 5

The last Jews of Cochin

Page 7

Index

Business	12
Crossword	13
Movies/TV	13
Opinion	5
Purim	8
Sports	10

Three killed in TA cafe bombing

By RAINIE MARCUS and Jerusalem Post Staff

Security forces yesterday identified the suicide bomber who detonated a three-kilo TNT bomb packed with nails and pieces of metal in Tel Aviv on Friday as Moussa Raninat, 28, of Kfar Tsurif near Hebron. Raninat's orange identity card was found on the terrace of the wrecked Apropro cafe.

A closure was imposed on the territories immediately following the attack, and the investigation of the case was transferred from the Tel Aviv police to the General Security Service. The home of Raninat, a member of Hamas for the past two years, was sealed.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the blast, in a phone call to Channel

GSS chief Ami Ayalon met Friday night with Palestinian Authority security heads and demanded they immediately rearrest some 150 security prisoners released by the PA over the past two weeks.

Three women were killed in the explosion on the cafe terrace. Forty-eight people were wounded, most of them suffering moderate to light wounds; 19 victims were still hospitalized yesterday.

Anat Winter-Rosen, 32, a Herzliya lawyer and the mother of Shani, a six-month-old girl who was also wounded to the blast, died from her wounds at Ichilov Hospital. Dr. Michal Avrahami, 32, of Tel Aviv, a Wolfson Hospital radiologist, died shortly after being taken to hospital. She was pregnant with her first child and her husband and mother-in-law were recovering at Ichilov from moderate wounds. The third victim was Yael Gilad, 32, of Neveh Monosson.

Avrahami is to be buried this afternoon at 2 at Tel Aviv's Kiryat Shaul Cemetery. Rosen is to be buried at 3 at Kfar Nahman Cemetery, near Ra'anana. The time of Gilad's funeral has not yet been announced.

Investigators said Raninat had worked in two Rishon LeZion restaurants. The owners of one, Formaggio, were arrested and questioned. Raninat had been investigated recently for suspected membership in Hamas.

The bag he carried containing the bomb was apparently given to him on the way to the packed Apropro cafe, sources said; he did not bring it from his village. Usually suicide bombers chosen by terror organizations are single, and Raninat, the father of four, did not fit the profile. He had permit to work in Israel.

Internal Security Minister Aviigot Kahalani, who arrived at the scene of the blast at the busy



Police and Hevra Kadisha workers sift through the terrace of Tel Aviv's Apropro cafe after Friday's suicide bombing.

intersection of Ben-Gurion and Adam Hachohen streets, blasted Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat for giving the green light to terror organizations and for failing to prevent attacks.

"He does not have to give the go-ahead to terror organizations," said Kahalani, who lives near the Apropro restaurant but was not at home at the time of the blast. "It is sufficient that he just winks at them."

He was insistent that the Har Homa building project continue. "We will not stop building in Jerusalem, nor anywhere else and will certainly not surrender to terrorists and their threats. It is known

that [the Palestinians] want to drive us into the sea and out of the country. We will not be driven into the sea."

A warning that an attack would take place in Tel Aviv had been received the previous evening, but no specific details were given, he added.

The bomb was detonated at 1:45 p.m., just after the terrorist sat at a table on the cafe's terrace. Because the explosion occurred outside, there were probably far fewer casualties than if Raninat had been able to find an inside table, police said.

The blast, which was heard

Continued on Page 14

PM: This is not peace

By MICHAEL TUDELMAN and JON IMMANUEL

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will convene a meeting of the inner cabinet today to discuss the security situation following Friday's terrorist attack in Tel Aviv. The meeting comes following Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's meeting with top security brass yesterday.

Netanyahu, who fingered the Palestinian Authority as being responsible for the attack, is demanding that it rearrest 150 leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the territories who have recently been released.

In a terse telephone conversation with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, Netanyahu demanded that he act immediately to return the terrorist leaders to prison. Arafat had initiated the call, to express his condolences.

PA officials condemned the attack, but blamed Netanyahu for creating the conditions which encouraged it. They also rejected charges that Arafat had given Hamas a "green light."

"The cabinet denounces the Tel Aviv attack, but at the same time it denounces the acts of destroying the peace process that creates an atmosphere which encourages violence and violent people on both sides," said Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath.

An angry Netanyahu told reporters after the attack that security services warned a few days ago that terrorist organizations had received the go-ahead from the PA to carry out attacks against Israel.

"The Palestinian Authority will have to change its ways, and very soon. It will have to understand we will not agree to proceed in this way; the political process will not continue at the same time as terrorist attacks. We are not prepared to call this peace. This is not peace, in which our women and children get bombed," he said.

The prime minister said the government will decide how to act against the terrorists and how to proceed with the peace process after holding consultations with defense officials. He accused Arafat of taking no action to stop the ter-

Continued on Page 14



Yael Gilad (Barak Wolfson/Courtesy of 'Ma'ariv')



Anat Winter-Rosen (Barak Wolfson/Courtesy of 'Ma'ariv')



Michal Avrahami (Koko/Courtesy of 'Ma'ariv')

Two days of clashes in Hebron leave over 100 wounded

By JON IMMANUEL and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Hundreds of Palestinians rushed the area between Palestinian and Israeli-controlled Hebron in three separate onslaughts yesterday and Friday, leaving dozens of Palestinians and several Israelis wounded.

But both sides kept to their respective zones, avoiding any direct contact that might have escalated the riots.

Hebron's Alya Hospital reported treating 92 people wounded in yesterday's clashes, including 10 who were in serious condition, suffering from bullet wounds.

The IDF said soldiers fired some five bullets when "their lives were in

danger." Twelve soldiers and border policemen and an Israeli boy were lightly wounded in the two days of clashes, the army said.

The IDF imposed a complete closure on the territories on Friday afternoon. In addition, it imposed a curfew on H2 - the area of Hebron still under Israeli control - and ordered Palestinians in H1 - the area under Palestinian control - and H2 to remain in their homes.

Jewish residents in Hebron were free to travel within the community, the IDF Spokesman said last night. The Machpelah Cave was open yesterday for prayers but due to the curfew imposed on the Palestinian sector, only Waqf leaders were permitted to pray there.

There were also clashes in the Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem on Friday evening. An Israeli girl was injured by glass splinters when the car she was in was hit by a stone near Ramallah. A policeman was hurt by a stone by El Anzoub camp near Hebron.

Clashes in Hebron started Friday morning, when a large crowd surged towards Beit Hadassah, throwing hundreds of stones, Hebron Jewish community spokesman Noam Amos said.

According to Amos, during the first hours, IDF troops didn't intervene.

He said the Palestinian policemen present in the crowd of rioters did nothing to stop them.

When IDF soldiers began to push the rioters back, they were hit with rocks and firebombs. Settlers claimed that IDF troops fired tear gas and rubber bullets towards the rioters, but Palestinians threw rocks and tear gas canisters back towards the soldiers.

Later in the afternoon, OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ophir visited the area.

According to the IDF Spokesman, Dayan and other high ranking officers met with Palestinians including Haj Ismail Jabr, the West Bank police commander, on Friday night, demanding that the Palestinian Police prevent disturbances in the areas under their control. Dayan would not comment yesterday.

The Friday clashes stopped soon after 2 p.m., when news of the suicide bombing in Tel Aviv apparently compelled the Palestinian Police to control the rioters.

Yesterday, Palestinian policemen seemed to allow the stone throwers to continue for about two hours during each of two waves of rioting, before coming in force to move them from the scene, only grabbing

Continued on Page 14

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Big Thinker

Purim events to go on under tight security

By RAINE MARCUS
and ELLI WOHLGELERWITZ

Purim events in Tel Aviv and elsewhere will go on as scheduled today, despite Friday's terror attack, but security forces will be on high alert. Police reinforcements were brought in from other districts, and hundreds of policemen, Civil Guard volunteers and other forces were already out in force after Friday's suicide bombing, giving extra attention to shopping malls, stadiums and entertainment establishments.

"We cannot allow terror to stop activities in the city that never sleeps," said Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo. "No one will succeed in preventing normal life here. But together with this we are taking the appropriate steps in the form of special security arrangements with police and security forces. Events planned will go ahead in fenced-off areas and with beefed-up security."

"We will as much as possible her-

metically secure all events in the city and form a gauntlet of policemen and officers at each event," said Hapayon police chief Dep. Cmdr. Ya'acov Shoval.

Police reinforcements were brought in from other districts, and roadblocks were erected at all the city entrances.

Several Arabs from the territories who were in Tel Aviv illegally were arrested during Friday night and their employers questioned.

Tel Aviv police chief Cmdr. Shlomo Aharonishky said yesterday that police are questioning workers in various restaurants where the 28-year-old suicide bomber had worked.

Jerusalem police are asking the public to be vigilant and to report immediately anything suspicious person or object.

Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said police in the capital are working 12-hour shifts, and are being aided by an extra IDF company.

Purim holiday events should not be cancelled because of the suicide bomb attack in Tel Aviv, although the public has to be more alert, former chief of the General Security Service Ya'acov Perry said yesterday.

Perry stressed that terrorism could not be allowed to dictate the lives of citizens, because it would be yielding to their designs to cause panic and disruption.

"I think the citizens of Israel have to be on a higher level of alert and awareness, but I would not recommend changing our lives. This is the main aim of the terrorist organizations," said Perry.

"It would be a victory for the terrorists if we were to recommend to citizens and their children not to lead their normal lives, but we should be more alert and hopefully things like this will not happen," he said.

Nevertheless, Perry noted that there was still a possibility that similar attacks could occur and that there was no shortage of volunteer suicide bombers and those capable of manufacturing explosive devices in the territories.

Ex-GSS head Perry: Public must be more alert

By DAVID RUDGE



Ya'acov Perry

(Sivan Farag)

"Such events have occurred in the past and, unfortunately, in my expectation we are likely to see more attempts by funda-

mental organizations to try and carry out acts like this in the future," he said.

Was the Tel Aviv attack something that could have been expected and possibly avoided? "I think something like this had been expected, but I would not say that you can prevent, hermetically, such acts, especially in the case of a lone suicide bomber," replied Perry.

"He [the bomber] had been an employee and had worked at several places in Tel Aviv and other places in the center of the country. He had knowledge of the area, the shops, cafes and restaurants. From what I understand, he did arouse the attention of the manager at the Apropro cafe because he was wearing a long coat even though it was 26 degrees centigrade and most people were in short sleeves."

"Had he been approached, however, he would undoubtedly have detonated the device straight away, so there was no way to prevent it once he had sat down. There was only one blessing, if you can call it that in the light of such a tragedy, and that was that the bomb exploded outside."

Had the release from jail by the Palestinian Authority of Hamas radical

Ibrahim Makadmeh and the involvement of Hamas in recent talks with PA officials perhaps given the fundamentalist extremists the impression that they had the green light for a renewed wave of terror attacks? "I think the Palestinians could and should do much more to prevent terrorist acts, whenever they have the right intelligence, by making arrests and interrogating people and bringing them to trial instead of letting them sit in jail for a relatively short period and then releasing them. They should not have released Makadmeh or others from prison."

Perry said the release of Makadmeh and an apparent lack of real effort on the Palestinian side to crack down on the radicals had perhaps given them an "indication that the reins had been loosened, but no more than that."

Asked what could be done to thwart any further terror attacks, Perry said that there should be more and closer cooperation between Israel's security services and their Palestinian counterparts. "I think that only tight coordination and understanding, as well as willingness and readiness from their (Palestinian) side can minimize such acts," he said.

COMMENT

Beyond politics are people

By MARK HELLER

The real victims of Friday's bombing are the Israelis in the Apropro Cafe and the relatives and friends who are left to mourn the dead, tend the wounded, and try to put shattered lives back together.

But the Palestinian suicide-bomber who blew himself on Friday also mounted perhaps the most pointed challenge yet to Binyamin Netanyahu.

Whatever other criticisms were levelled against him since the last elections, it could at least be said in his defense that, so far during his tenure, Israel had been spared the type of terrorism that so afflicted it under the previous government - at least until Friday.

The challenge facing the prime minister has nothing to do with the self-serving and repulsive accusations by Palestinian spokesmen that it is Netanyahu himself who was responsible for this violence.

Indeed, it is a puzzle that why those who blame the "right-wing, hard-line" policies of this government for the bombing before Purim 1997 are not pressed to explain how the "left-wing, soft-line" policies of the previous government led to the bombings of Purim 1996.

The responsibility for terrorism lies with the perpetrators themselves, terrorists, along with all those who recruit, train, equip, organize, support, encourage, and justify them, either directly or through merely mouthed references to their outrage and frustration.

For Netanyahu, therefore, the serious challenge is not about his responsibility, but about his reaction.

The inability of the previous government to mount a credible and reassuring response discredited it and/or the Oslo process in the eyes of many voters and helped pave Netanyahu's road to the Prime Minister's Office.

Netanyahu first attracted international attention through his analyses of terrorism and his proposals for dealing with it, and his appeal to the Israeli public was partly based on the implicit promise that he knew how to succeed where previous leaders had failed. The basis for this promise has hitherto not been put to the test, and that itself might have been taken as legitimate evidence of success.

As a result, there was no need to show what he meant in policy terms when he argued that peace and terrorism were incompatible, or what new counterterrorism techniques and tactics he may have had in mind.

But now things have changed and, since the old repertoire of temporary closures and temporary suspension of negotiations has been tried and found wanting, Netanyahu will be expected to demonstrate how a response different from that of his predecessors will produce more effective results.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Mr. Patrick Ferrall, OBE, MA: Chairman of Lloyd's Register, London.



MDA workers wheel one of those wounded from Friday's bombing to an ambulance.

(Assaf Shilo/Israel Sun)

Twenty-six wounded remain in hospital

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Twenty-six of those wounded in the Apropro bombing remained in Tel Aviv area hospitals last night. Half were in Ichilov, the others in Sheba, Beilinson and Wolfson. One victim was in serious but stable condition, two in moderate condition, and the rest sustained light to moderate injuries.

"My mother and I decided to go out to

Apropro. I saw the terrorist come in. He was an eccentric, weird looking guy, not especially 'Middle Eastern' in appearance," recalled Dafna Alon, who was recovering in Ichilov Hospital.

"He looked for a place to sit. I noticed him because he was unusual. There were a few seats available, and he was clearly looking for 'the best place' right in the center of the patio. He was holding a large bag, heavy-looking, which he covered partially with a yellow coat. A winter coat on such a warm day, it attracted

attention. He looked strange to me. The head waiter also looked at him. All this was three minutes before the bomb went off," she continued.

"He put the bag down. I was sitting on one edge of the patio and he sat in the very middle, not far from us. Then there were pieces of glass flying everywhere. Impact. Complete chaos. My mother was at my side, she's suffering from the same symptoms, splinters, echoing in the head and ears."

US to Arafat: Say no to terrorism

By HILLEL KUTTLER
and news agencies

WASHINGTON - The Clinton Administration believes the peace process is salvageable despite Friday's terrorist attack, but it is pressing Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to demonstrate publicly that he is sending only one message: No to terrorism.

"Certainly, this is a difficult moment," a senior US official said of the Tel Aviv suicide bombing. "We've had difficult moments before. At this moment, the most important thing to do is make sure there is no doubt of the commitment of the PA to fight terror."

Asked what the US strategy is now, the official stated: "We hope we get by the next several days with no acts of terror, no violence in the territories. If we can do that - and our focus will be on getting serious negotiations restarted, and I am confident that we can - we will have an active process."

The US has conveyed its demands directly to Arafat, although neither President Bill Clinton nor Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has done so personally, the official said.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns confirmed Friday that Albright had received a letter from Foreign Minister David Levy objecting to the US's disputing an Israeli intelligence assertion that Arafat had in effect given a "green light" to terror attacks. But he said the US is "not going to debate intelligence assessments publicly."

Clinton on Friday also turned up the heat on the PA to demonstrate that it won't countenance terrorist attacks. "There is no place for such acts of terror and violence in the peace process," Clinton said at the conclusion of his Helsinki summit

with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

"There must be absolutely no doubt in the minds of the friends or of the enemies of peace that the PA is unalterably opposed to terror and unalterably committed to preempting and preventing such acts. This is essential to negotiating a meaningful and lasting peace. And I will do what I can to achieve that objective," Clinton said.

"What I think is very important is that, no matter how strongly Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian people feel about the Har Homa decision, nothing, nothing justifies a return to the slaughter of innocent civilians. It cannot be justified. And we have to have a clear and unambiguous position. And in the past when Mr. Arafat has taken that position, I believe it strengthened him," he said.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, while in Africa on Friday, strongly denounced the bombing and expressed his condolences. His statement, issued through a spokesman at UN headquarters in New York, added: "At the same time, the Secretary-General wishes to reiterate his appeal to the parties not to allow odious acts of this nature to derail the peace process."

In the Hague, the Dutch presidency of the European Union extended its condolences and said it hoped the attack would not derail the peace process. "As president of the European Union it is our heartfelt hope that all those involved will continue their efforts to reach a peaceful solution for the problems in the Middle East, Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok told a news conference.

French President Jacques Chirac, in a letter to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, called the attack a "cowardly and odious act."

Continued on Page 4

Likud MKs: Suspend talks with Palestinians

By SARAH HONG
and LIAT COLLINS

Labor's leaders called for the continuation of the peace process in spite of the Tel Aviv bombing, while the Likud urged its own government to suspend all talks with the Palestinian Authority for the time being.

Labor leader Shimon Peres argued over the weekend that "we must not allow Hamas and the terrorist involved to undo the policies of the government of Israel. It is utterly unthinkable that a terrorist would determine the fate of

Israel."

MK Ehud Barak, who hopes to replace Peres as party leader in June, recommended that "Israel demand that the PA do more to combat terror, but I am afraid that this is not the last such bloody test we face. There is no alternative but to fight terror till we achieve the peace."

In an official statement, the Likud said "Israel's own intelligence community had warned that Arafat's doubletalk will inevitably lead to terrorist out-

Continued on Page 4



In this image from Channel 1, a man is seen carrying the baby girl whose mother, Anat Winter-Rosen, was killed in the suicide bombing Friday in Tel Aviv.

(AP)

Tel Aviv bounces back

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
and RAINE MARCUS

Perhaps the most unforgettable image of the suicide bombing on Friday was that of the six-month-old baby girl in clown costume, being carried away by a distraught policeman.

Nobody had come to claim the baby, the radio reported all afternoon, repeating a police statement that "a possible link between the infant and one of the women who died in the attack was being examined."

Reuma, however, stood strong and defiant amidst the wreckage, broken glass, and upturned tables at the front of the Apropro cafe.

"Reuma, 1995," a bronze statue of a headless nude woman, erected on the terrace of the preserved Bauhaus building housing the cafe, was totally undamaged by the bomb, and was the only object left intact, as police, the General Security Service, sappers, forensic squads and the Herta Kadisha sifted through the carnage, checking the wounded's documents and personal possessions which were scattered around the area. A bowl of salad still stood on one of the tables.

There had been warnings of course. Security and intelligence reports had mentioned the possibility of a terrorist attack in "the central region." The intelligence agencies were not surprised by the attack.

The only ones surprised were the

people sitting in the Apropro cafe, enjoying their afternoon coffee and cake.

It was a target so unlikely that the attack only underscored how impossible it is to guard against terror. Even if the security forces had advised people to avoid crowding into Dizengoff Center, one would have had to be paranoid to consider it dangerous to pop into the cheery cafe on the corner of Rehov Adam Hachohen.

But unlike last year, there was a notable absence of rabble-rousers rushing to the scene of the tragedy. No sign, either, of any of the Knesset members who used to appear as if by magic at the site of every terrorist crime.

This time, police and civilians, while not indifferent to the sights of wreckage and body parts, seemed calmer than after previous terror attacks. Maybe it was because, this time, the death toll was less. Or maybe our senses have become dulled.

For the first time, television stations broadcast their regular schedules, including *Hartzoim* and other comedies. There was extended news coverage of course, but Channel 2 put up a slide saying Tel-Aviv was continuing normal broadcasts and would not succumb to terrorism.

In the past, some people might have been upset, thinking this showed disrespect for the victims. But on Friday night it felt like the

Continued on Page 4

From bombing to bombing

By SUE FISHKOFF

to be there again, time after time, witnessing that horrible carnage. I felt sorry for him."

Despite the personal tragedy that struck his family last Purim, Belkin said he does not think he is any more afraid for his family's security than any other Israeli is.

"Everyone who lives here has a certain small chance of being involved in something like this," he said. "The life expectancy in Israel is high. People have a good chance

of living a long life. Most people don't get blown up. You have to have very bad luck for that to happen to you."

Other Tel Aviv residents were less sanguine about the twists of fate in their city. AACI board member Barbara Bond moved out of her apartment on Rehov Shalom Aleichem, blocks away from Dizengoff Center, last May after the second suicide bombing in 18 months struck her neighborhood.

Mother: Life defeats terrorism

The anniversary of one suicide bombing was marked Friday by the birth of baby boy whose brother was one of last year's victims.

Kochava Levy, whose 12-year-old son, Avi, was killed just before Purim in last year's Dizengoff Center attack, on Friday gave birth to another son, weighing 3.5 kilos, to be named Matan.

Levy attended the memorial ceremony for the Dizengoff Center victims the day before giving birth at Beilinson Hospital, whose delivery room staff were teary-eyed with emotion at the special event. "This is a day of joy for us, that is once again mixed with sadness," Levy said Friday. "But they won't defeat us. Life will defeat terrorism." (Ilim)

"I decided it was an area that attracts problems," she says. "I'd grown up in a small Iowa town, and here in Tel Aviv, in addition to the bombings, I'd had grenades outside my apartment."

Some people argue she shouldn't have run away. Bond says. But she heard both bombs from her apartment, and felt the danger was too close to home. In fact, she was headed toward the fatal corner on Rehov Dizengoff last Purim when that bomb went off.

She feels she was saved only because she returned to her house for more money due to a sudden craving for hamentaschen. Two months later, she moved to Ra'anana.

"We had our children's Purim parade in Ra'anana on Friday morning, and for once, there was some normalcy in our lives," she says. "Then this happens. But I don't want to see Purim festivities cancelled because of it. On the contrary, they must go forward."

When terror strikes 'people like us'

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

There it was, that unmistakable sound. In the midst of a peaceful Friday afternoon, I was sitting in my north Tel Aviv apartment talking on the telephone, holding my six-month-old baby on my lap. "I just heard a loud bang," I told my friend. "Please let it be a sonic boom." I added, addressing a higher power.

But, of course, it wasn't. The horrid noise that I and all of my neighbors had heard was the terrorist attack that we, along with the entire country, expected to happen ever since the first bulldozer began to dig at Har Homa.

We expected something to happen. We just didn't expect it to happen so close to home.

The Apropro cafe is about five blocks from my house. So the explosion was closer to home than the fainter "bang" I'd heard precisely a year ago when a suicide bomber chose Dizengoff Center as his target. Closer to home than any of many terrorist attacks I'd covered as a reporter. Closer to home in more than a simple geographic sense.

This was the first incident in which maintaining journalistic distance from the event and its victims was utterly impossible — because I knew in my heart that it could have been me.

It was sheer luck that I had chosen to stay inside on that sunny Friday, instead of pushing the baby in his stroller and going to meet friends in

a local cafe as I had many times before, just like the women killed in the attack — all of whom were my age, and one of whom had a baby the age of my son.

Blackly ironic, considering that a recent advertising campaign by the Apropro chain aimed at a potential yuppie clientele touted it as a place where one could hang out with "people just like you."

Apparently, Hamas has embarked on a publicity campaign similar to that of the restaurant chain — only instead of drawing us in to feast on blintzes and salads, their goal is to inform the Israeli media, cultural, business, and political elite that populate my neighborhood that "people just like us" are not out of their reach. That we are not secure simply because we don't live on the northern border, or in the territories, or in Jerusalem; or because we don't ride early-morning buses, or hang out in crowded downtown shopping malls like Dizengoff Center.

None of that, they are telling us, keeps us safe. They know where we live. And they are reminding us that despite our upscale gourmet shops, our countless espresso bars, and our trendy little boutiques — we live in the Middle East, too.

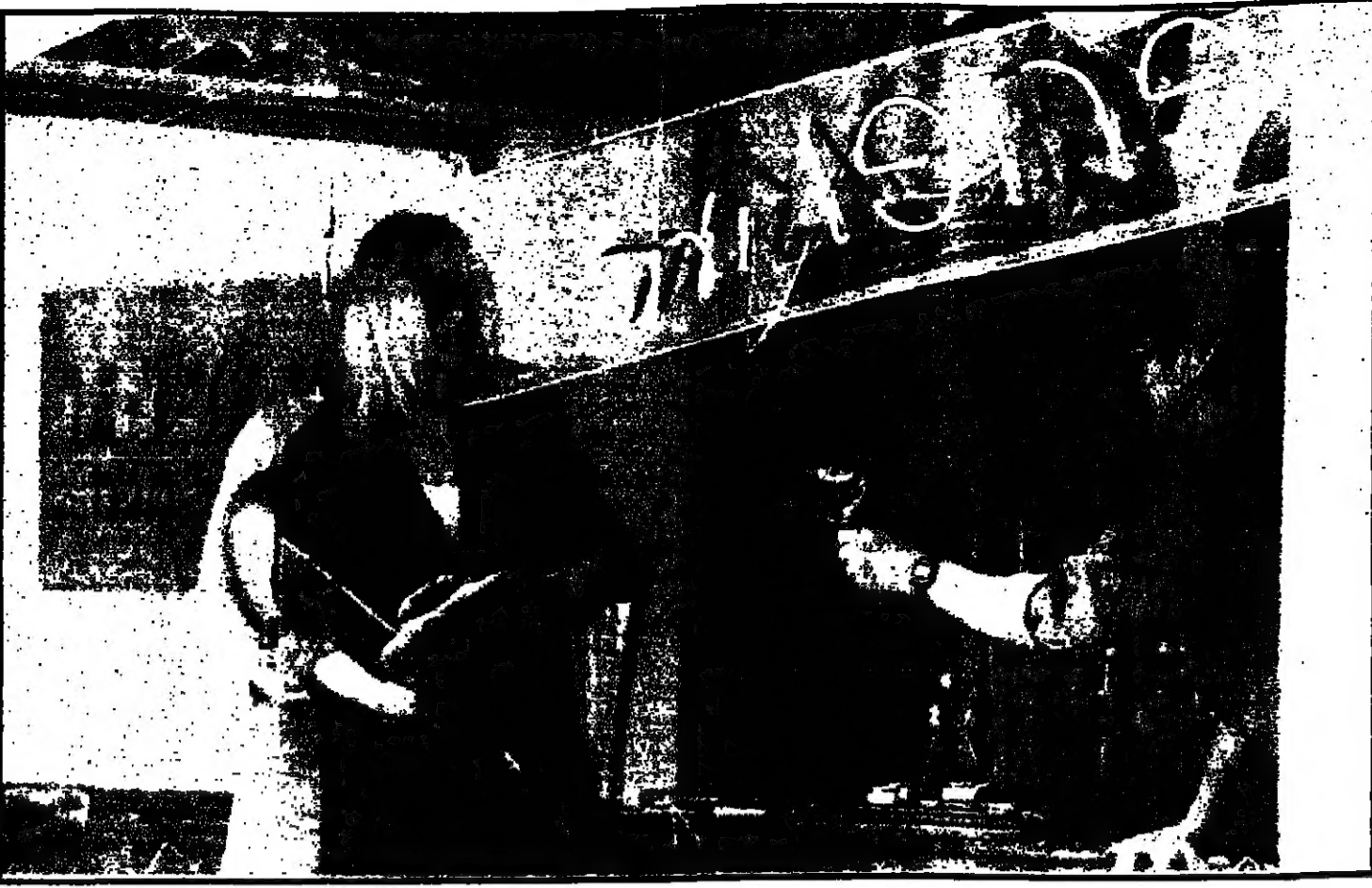
It could have been the nature of the neighborhood, or the fact that the attack came as far less of a surprise than other bombs in Tel Aviv, but the crowd that gathered at the scene of the blast afterward was unusually quiet, subdued, and well-behaved, standing politely behind the barri-

cades the police had erected.

There were a few members of the rightist "rent-a-mob" that tends to show up after these events. There were token cries and signs reading "Death to Arabs," "Left-wingers go home" and even "Bibi must resign," but they were quickly swallowed up in the crowd, and after a few hours, faded away.

The vast majority of people came in the evening, as I did, staring silently as workers began sweeping up the shards of glass from the whitewashed porch of the building. A few wore Purim costumes, heading to or from celebrations, others wore their daily costumes of leather jackets, pointy boots, designer eyeglass frames and other marks of Tel Aviv trendiness.

After a time, I walked the five blocks to my apartment, aware of the absurd fact that while my neighbors and I could feel safe heading home on these dark empty streets — the next time we entered a sunny crowded cafe filled with laughing, chatting "people like us," we would feel afraid.



Workers cleaning up Tel Aviv's Apropro cafe yesterday examine a glass that somehow withstood the concussion of Friday's suicide bombing. (AP)

Apropro owners vow to reopen today

By SUE FISHKOFF

Workers were busy sweeping away debris and replastering the patio ceiling at the Apropro restaurant at 75 Sderot Ben-Gurion in Tel Aviv yesterday afternoon, as restaurant co-owner Dedi Golan vowed to reopen the upscale eatery today.

"We want to show that the people of Israel won't collapse in the face of terror," he stated. "We will return to normalcy as soon as possible, to the extent that we are able."

A crew of 20 workers began repairs as soon as the last of the wounded were removed from the scene on Friday afternoon. They worked through most of Friday night and all day yesterday, replacing broken windows, painting and plastering, and polishing the outdoor tiled patio to remove the traces of Friday's suicide bombing.

The Apropro restaurant and its second-floor gallery opened just last summer, following a two-year renovation of the historic Bauhaus building in which they are situated (see sidebar). Damage to the building was initially estimated at NIS 400,000, but Golan said that figure is not final. Workers were concentrating yesterday on fixing up the ground-floor restaurant first.

Blown-out windows on the second-floor art gallery were still covered with plastic sheeting and masking tape. No artwork was damaged, Golan said, except for one painting that fell off the wall.

A team of psychologists is set to meet with the restaurant staff this morning, before the doors reopen.

Next door, at 73 Sderot Ben-Gurion, Sigi Nachmias was standing on her balcony yesterday afternoon, surveying the bomb site that lay a mere six meters from her first-floor

apartment. Nachmias was still nursing a bandaged left arm, and her face was crossed with cuts she received the explosion sent shards of glass across her living room. She was treated at Beilinson Medical Center, and returned to her badly-damaged apartment some hours later.

Shattered glass from windows, mirrors and perfume bottles lay all over her living room and bedroom floors, and chunks of plaster had been ripped out of the wall nearest to the blast.

"When I'm outside, I don't feel that affected, but as soon as I step into the house, I feel the shock all over again," she said. The front door of her building was standing open, and broken glass littered the stairwell. All the apartments in the building suffered window damage.

The mood yesterday at the site was low-key, with only a few scattered political arguments to mar the somber, if curious atmosphere. Tel Aviv resident Israel Alexander was one of those who stopped by to survey the situation. He had been visiting a friend in a nearby apartment Friday, and heard the bomb blast.

"I thought, how strange that it should thunder in the middle of a heat wave," he said, then added: "The Palestinians as a whole aren't to blame for this. It happens all over. Look at the Basques and northern Ireland. There are crazy people in every country."

"And where was this guy from? Hebron, right?" showed a young man standing next to Alexander. "Of course the Palestinians are responsible. It's not just one person, it's all of them."

Alexander shrugged. "I've known Palestinians for 40 years, and I say, you can't control what one crazy person will do."

BACKGROUND

Building's history comes full circle

By SUE FISHKOFF

When Tel Aviv's Apropro restaurant/gallery opened in the historic Beit Hannah building at 75 Sderot Ben-Gurion last summer, it marked the triumphant revival of one of the city's best-known examples of classic Bauhaus architecture.

Built as a boarding school for kibbutz girls in 1934, Beit Hannah was founded by Hannah Chizhik, an educator, Poalei Zion activist, and early leader of the Histadrut, who founded a number of girls' agricultural schools in pre-state Israel.

According to Tel Aviv resident Helen Berman, a volunteer tour guide for the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, a field behind the school was used as a farm, including a cowshed.

The girls would sell the milk, fruit, and vegetables they grew from a small store at the entrance to the school, in order to finance their education. Eventually the school closed and the building fell into disuse. It was abandoned, and stood empty for more than a decade.

About five years ago, according to neighbor Shraga Steinberger, interest in Bauhaus buildings began to stir, and renovations were started on Beit Hannah. "It's a wonderful

example of classic Bauhaus architecture," he says.

A third floor, which had been added to the original structure, was torn down, and the building was restored and repainted to look as it did when it was first built. In May 1994, an international Bauhaus conference held in Tel Aviv was based at Beit Hannah, although restoration was not yet complete. Two years ago, developers for Apropro took over the job, and the restaurant and upstairs gallery opened their doors in the summer of 1996.

History has a strange way of coming full circle. The Chizhik family figured largely in early Zionist history. Hannah's brother, Ephraim, worked on the construction of the power station at Naharayim in the early 1920s, and was instrumental in establishing good relations with the neighboring Arabs. He was killed defending the Hula settlement during the Arab riots of 1929.

Hannah's sister, Sarah, died defending the Upper Galilee settlement of Tel Hai from Arab marauders on 11 Adar 1920. The anniversary of her death fell this year on March 20, just one day before the terrorist bomb attack on the historic girls' school that bears her sister's name.

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SUPER-SOL HYPERCOL

Yeltsin: Russia wants to join EU

News agencies

HELSINKI — President Boris Yeltsin, returning home to charges he capitulated on NATO enlargement at a summit with the United States, said yesterday Moscow was prepared to join the European Union.

Yeltsin's unexpected comment came a day after he agreed with US President Bill Clinton to push for a fuller role for Moscow in a number of world economic bodies, and came even though Russia has not officially applied for EU membership.

"(Russia) is also aiming to be recognized finally as a full European state and we are also prepared to join the European Union," he told reporters after meeting Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari.

Ahtisaari, whose country joined the EU in 1995, said Yeltsin had also mentioned EU membership for Russia in bilateral talks before the Russian president left for

Moscow.

Russia opposes NATO's plans to invite ex-Soviet bloc states to join but is less concerned about them becoming EU members. Several EU officials have expressed doubts that Russia, the world's largest country, would ever be able to join the Union.

A spokesman for the European Commission, the EU's executive body, said it "takes note" of Yeltsin's statement and added the 15 EU foreign ministers may discuss it at a meeting tomorrow.

Yeltsin acknowledged yesterday his failure to win President Clinton's promise that no former Soviet republic will ever be allowed to join NATO.

"But nevertheless, we decided that we must not destroy the partnership between our two countries, the United States and Russia. This partnership must be strengthened for sake of our people, the safety of Europe and the entire world," he told

reporters.

Russia has managed to win other concessions from Clinton, notably the promise that NATO's nuclear weapons and conventional forces will not move to the east when the alliance accommodates former Soviet satellites in Central and Eastern Europe.

Hobbled by a knee injury, Clinton held an intense day of talks with the Russian leader, who is recovering from heart surgery.

Sitting side by side at a news conference Friday evening — Clinton a head lower in a wheelchair — the two men often smiled at each other. Yeltsin referred to Clinton as "Bill" on several occasions.

The presidents agreed to secure passage of the START II nuclear-missile treaty in the Russian State Duma, a longtime goal of the US administration, and pledged that they will go even further.

Asked whether the lower house of parliament finally would pass it, Yeltsin tersely

answered: "I believe that the State Duma will make a decision based on my advice."

Clinton also said he would push for Russia's membership in international economic organizations. Yeltsin already is invited to the annual summit of the G-7 industrialized nations — renamed the "Summit of the Eight" — being held in Denver this June. He still will not be granted full membership.

Clinton and Yeltsin also agreed to improve economic ties, including membership in the World Trade Organization in 1998.

Clinton, who left the Finnish capital Friday night, was lifted back into Air Force One in a catering truck. He returned to Washington early yesterday.

Yeltsin, accompanied by his wife Naina, stayed on for a day of meetings Saturday with Finnish leaders. He left Helsinki on Saturday afternoon aboard his new presidential plane, a huge Il-96.

Zaire rebel tells UN envoy 'no ceasefire'

KISANGANI (Reuters) — Zairean rebel leader Laurent Kabila and a roaring crowd of 10,000 supporters firmly told a UN envoy yesterday there would be no ceasefire with the government before negotiations.

Kabila used his first speech since arriving in the northeastern capital of Kisangani on Friday to deliver the firm "no ceasefire" message to UN envoy Mohamed Sahnoun, who arrived during the rally.

"People accuse me of being an extremist because I don't want a ceasefire, but it is the people who don't want to have a ceasefire," he told Sahnoun before an estimated 10,000 people.

Sahnoun, who had just arrived by plane from Nairobi, was taken straight to the stadium where the rally was in progress and was ushered on stage during Kabila's speech but looked unperturbed.

"Do you want a ceasefire?" Kabila asked the jubilant crowd.

"Advance, forward," his boisterous supporters roared back.

"There will be no ceasefire before negotiations," Kabila earlier told reporters, sticking to his demand for talks with ailing President Mobutu Sese Seko or his representative before any truce.

Diplomats said Sahnoun, joint special envoy of the United Nations and Organisation of African Unity, was believed to be carrying new ceasefire proposals to Kabila. They said Sahnoun

would probably fly to Kinshasa after talks with Kabila.

A political source told Reuters that Kabila was coming under heavy pressure to call a ceasefire, particularly after Mobutu said on Thursday he no longer ruled out talks with the rebels.

But many ordinary Zaireans eager for a change from poverty and hardship under Mobutu, are openly rallying to Kabila, who has said the central diamond capital of Mbuji-Mayi and Zaire's second city Lubumbashi in the southeast are next in his sights.

Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) has seized more than one-fifth of Zaire, Africa's third-largest country, since October.

Since the fall of Kisangani last weekend, rebels have seized Yangambi, 100 km west of the city and Kabinda, 100 km east of Mbuji-Mayi, Kabila told yesterday's rally.

In an apparent attempt to strengthen his political position before negotiations, Kabila appealed to opposition leaders to join his revolt and argued the ADFL had achieved more by taking up arms than the opposition politicians in the capital Kinshasa.

He said he demanded a transitional government composed entirely of ADFL members and any opposition politicians who did not join the rebellion would be considered Mobutu's allies.

Islamic group massacres 32 civilians

ALGIERS (AP) — A group of Islamic militants armed with sabres and axes slit the throats of 32 civilians and then beheaded some of them, independent newspapers reported yesterday.

The attackers took only half an hour on Wednesday to wreak havoc in a village near Ksar El Boukhari, 150 km south of Algiers, the French language dailies *El Watan* and *Liberte* reported.

The newspapers said the victims, including 16 women, came from four different families.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, which were not reported by the pro-government media.

The deaths come less than week after up to 18 civilians died in bomb attacks in and around the Algerian capital, according to hospital sources speaking on condition of anonymity. There was no claim of responsibility for the deaths, but the methods resemble those used by Islamic militants.

Algerian security forces last Sunday reported killing nearly 50 Islamic militants as a part of their crackdown on a 5-year-old insurgency against the military-backed government.

Security forces have been waging an offensive against the militants since the Moslem holy month of Ramadan, during which bombings in Algiers and massacres in villages left some 400 people dead. Ramadan ended Feb. 9.

More than 60,000 people have been killed since the start of the insurgency, which was triggered by the army's decision to cancel 1992 legislative elections that Moslem fundamentalist parties were poised to win.

Fundamentalist parties have been banned from new legislative elections scheduled for June 5.



An Albanian refugee disembarks with his son at Brindisi, Italy. Nearly 11,000 refugees have arrived in Italy recently. (Reuters)

Albania PM rebuffs call for Berisha ouster

TIRANA (Reuters) — Albanian Prime Minister Bashkim Fino yesterday rebuffed rebels holding the south of the country by dismissing their calls for President Sali Berisha to quit.

But he said he was ready to open a dialogue with the rebels who have taken over at least 14 towns in southern Albania.

Fino said Berisha's resignation would cause a power vacuum in a country still reeling from weeks of looting and shooting by Albanians angry at the loss of their savings in collapsed pyramid investment schemes.

Italy promised to send emergency health supplies to Albania at the weekend following a request from Fino. The Foreign Ministry in Rome said the supplies, in the form of health kits, would be enough for 300,000 people for a month.

No aid had arrived yesterday morning, although an Italian air force transport plane flew in a further group of "undesirable" Albanian refugees expelled from Italy.

Fino said in an interview that the government, rather than wanting Berisha to quit, had more pressing tasks in restoring order, distributing humanitarian aid and preparing for elections in June.

Fino, a member of the opposition Socialist Party, was appointed by Berisha last week to lead an interim national unity government ahead of the elections.

But he has been locked in a power struggle with Berisha's Democrats who control 122 of the 140 seats in parliament after elections last May that international observers said were deeply flawed.

"The government has a more important

mission than asking for the president's resignation," Fino said. "It would create an institutional vacuum if Berisha were to resign."

Opposition leaders have made it clear that they want an end to Berisha's presidency, but they would prefer this was brought about by democratic means. Berisha himself has promised to quit if his party loses the June election.

Fino was speaking a day after rebel leaders from 14 towns in southern Albania issued a fresh call for Berisha to resign, but pulled back from a confrontation with the government.

Albania's unrest blew up first in the south after shady pyramid investment schemes collapsed and left thousands of families destitute. Angry Albanians looted guns from army barracks and took control of their towns.

Papua New Guinea mercenary questioned

PORT MORESBY (AP) — Police in Papua New Guinea yesterday questioned the leader of a mercenary force hired by the government to quash a secessionist rebellion.

Police released British military consultant Tim Spicer after five hours of questioning. He was charged with possessing an unlicensed pistol and ordered to appear in court tomorrow.

Spicer's detention raised the prospect of criminal charges relat-

ing to the use of foreign forces to end a rebellion on Bougainville, an island 1,300 km northeast of the capital, Port Moresby.

Spicer is the last of the mercenaries remaining in Papua New Guinea. The military deported the other remaining British and South African mercenaries under his command, ignoring orders by Prime Minister Julius Chan.

Chan's government signed a US \$36 million military contract with British-based military consulting

firm — Sandline International — to train the army in counterinsurgency warfare and to take part in a major attack.

The army, which is badly funded and ill-equipped, claims the deal signed by Spicer and the government was illegal and unconstitutional.

The national crisis over the contract heightened this week when the army's leader, Brig. Gen. Jerry Singirok, ordered his forces not to cooperate with the mercenaries

hired by Chan's government.

Chan retaliated by firing Singirok and accusing him of treason. The dismissal ignited two days of rioting in Port Moresby, 800 km north of Cairns, Australia.

Singirok, in turn, called for Chan's resignation. Singirok said an investigation ordered by the government into the use of the foreign soldiers would be impartial only if Chan steps down.

But an army leader loyal to Singirok ruled out direct use of force by the army should Chan ignore the call to resign by the time Parliament convenes on Tuesday.

The army leader who claims to be in charge of the troops now — Maj. Walter Enuma — said yesterday the defense forces consider the crisis to be political.

BOUNCES

Continued from Page 2

right decision to continue as normal. In the same spirit, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo announced that Purim events would go on.

And like Reuma, those hardy residents of Tel Aviv not immediately affected by the terrorist's bomb, defiantly stood up to the attempt to

Gator kills 3-year-old

LAKE ASHBY, Florida (AP) — The body of a 3-year-old boy was found yesterday near a 3.5-meter alligator that authorities suspect snatched the child as he played in shallow water with his brother and a dog.

A trapper who hunts so-called nuisance alligators found Adam Trevor Binford's body about a kilometer from the spot where he was last seen Friday.

"The boy was not eaten," said Volusia County Sheriff's Department Capt. Randy Burned. However, authorities refused to release details of the boy's injuries. The alligator was killed.

Adam's mother, 31-year-old Lorri Binford, told authorities that the boy was standing in knee-deep water Friday, playing with 8-year-old brother Evan and a dog.

Ms. Binford said she heard a large splash, and when she looked over at her children, Adam was gone.

Sheriff's divers and a helicopter crew searched until nightfall at the lake, about 30 km northeast of Orlando.

The body was found after the search resumed yesterday. Alligators are known to attack small animals and a 3-year-old boy would be about the size of prey large alligators would pounce on, said Lt. Joy Hill, a spokeswoman for the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Since the game commission began keeping records in 1943, there have been 225 alligator attacks on humans, but only seven were fatal.

collective psyche that life in a metropolis inexorably rolls on, despite terrorism, despite everything. And that, sadly enough, terrorism is now part of our lives, like earthquakes and road deaths — here there, everywhere. That Tel Aviv is no different from Paris, London, San Francisco or Oklahoma.

So Cafe Apropo will be open today, and it's a fair guess its customers will be there, too.

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Thurs. 27.3, 8:30 p.m. T-A, concert 7 Series E
Fri. 28.3, 7:30 p.m. T-A, concert 4 Series H
Mon. 31.3, 8:30 p.m. T-A, concert 6 Series F

Mordechai Rechtman conductor
Yefim Bronfman pianist

Programme:
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مركز النجمل

Minyan in cyberspace

By JUDY SEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Hardly Jews, having largely cut themselves off from the big world by voluntarily abstaining from the use of TV, have instead gone to computers and the Internet with a vengeance. In effect, observant Jews around the world have established a kind of *minyan* in cyberspace. They don't use this international Jewish connection to pray together, but they do almost everything else using modern equipment: personal computers, studying Talmud and the weekly Torah portion together, asking rabbis halachic questions, collecting information on Orthodox synagogues, schools and ritual baths around the world; reading rabbis' inspirational and halachic lectures; and going shopping in Torah-connected electronic malls. All of it is kosher, and if they wish, they can lock themselves out of the "ref" Internet beyond, keeping carefully within the bounds of approved Net sites.

Perhaps the most significant Internet addresses for the Jewish community, as well as for many modern Orthodox Jews, is the Shema Yisrael Torah Network. It was founded a year ago by an ambitious young man named Adam Tannenbaum, who moved here from Los Angeles in the Eighties. Born in New York City, he spent his childhood in California and studied at Yeshiva University's LA high school branch.

He spent some time in film production, but never studied computers formally. Moving to Jerusalem, he became more

Orthodox and studied at the kollel run by the Bostoner Rebbe. He earned his living for several years by being the yeshiva's cleanup and maintenance man.

Then five years ago Tannenbaum bought one of the first laptop computers and laser printers in the country. "I wanted to create the largest collection of Jewish educational material for free," recalls Tannenbaum, whose two companies, JenCom and International Commerce Exchange Systems (ICES), now occupy several floors in Yad Harav Nissim in Jerusalem's upscale Talbiyah quarter. When the Internet came to Israel, he decided to hire the best computer people to produce Jewish Web sites.

JenCom is a commercial firm that designs Web sites for a wide variety of customers, many of them non-Jewish. Founded in 1995, it has offices in California, New York, England, France, South Africa and Australia, providing strategic consulting, project planning and Internet and Intranet site design and development suited to each client's specific objectives. Just one example produced by JenCom is the Religious Affairs Ministry's Web site. ICES uses the Internet to market goods and services to thousands of qualified buyers, serving as an international global exchange.

But it's the Shema Yisrael Torah Network that Tannenbaum operates as a non-profit organization, funded largely with money donated by the S.Y. Foundation, established by a rich relative of his who is a businessman in the US.

This impressive Web site, located at <http://www.shemayisrael.co.il>, is constantly updated. During a 50-day period recently, the site was accessed over 100,000 times, 16% of users in Israel, about half in the US (the site is mostly in English), with the rest throughout the Diaspora. Anyone can access it, but one can also voluntarily join a restricted Intranet arrangement that prevents users from going into "forbidden" sites.

One can sign up for "Cyberpatrol," which prevents children (and others) from reaching sites containing a variety of off-limit words. Parents can also set electronic limits on how often and how long their children are on the Internet, and a "chat guard" protects them from getting into trouble through unsuitable chat groups.

The Shema Yisrael Torah Network lets users leave a prayer or request in the crevices of the Western Wall (it is not the only site to do this); one can request that a yeshiva student recite Psalms for someone in distress — and both of these services are free.

Pirchei Shoshanim, a network of Jewish children's societies (founded sometime in the late 18th or early 19th centuries in Eastern Europe, which disbanded a century ago due to anti-Jewish unrest, have been revived in cyberspace. Via the Torah network, teachers, and youngsters around the world are linked via the Internet.

Educators swap ideas, and children are provided with lessons on Shabbat, prayers, the Torah portion and ethics. They can download commentaries on Maimonides' works, complete with illustrations, which have been translated English, French and Spanish.

The Pirchei program, open to all Jewish pupils regardless of their level of religious observance or education, runs contests (on themes such as Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself) and distributes membership cards, stickers, T-shirts and certificates. Tannenbaum notes that many penitent Jews who know little about tradition and observance have been following Pirchei activities and are welcome to make use of its educational resources as well.

Users who download a "Shockwave" program can listen to the recitation of the Daf Yomi (daily portion of Gemara) or Mishna Yomit (daily portion of the

Mishna). There are printed lectures by prominent English-speaking rabbis (or translations into English) on the Torah portion of the week and numerous other themes. The site provides a link to the "ReJEWvenation Project," aimed at bringing back to the fold "renegade boys from Orthodox homes." There is even a special section for women, but one may enter only after registering and obtaining a password.

Comprehensive lists of Orthodox synagogues, day schools, organizations and ritual baths around the world can be reached by merely clicking the mouse on a map. There are separate sections for the French-speaking Jewish world and for the Jewish communities in Britain and South Africa. Tannenbaum offers to produce a single free Web page for any Orthodox Jewish organization around the world; if they want more than one page, they are charged for the service by JenCom.

If you click on Jewish Music, you are presented with a "Jewish Juke Box"; one can hear selections of cantorial and modern religious music by well-known performers.

passing through Jerusalem's Bar-Ilan Street on Shabbat. To my surprise, within 24 hours, I received a personal response from Rabbi Yisrael Pessah Feinhandler, an e-mail aficionado who is also a model and marriage counselor in Jerusalem's Romema quarter. "It is very sad that Orthodox Jews throw rocks on Shabbat," he wrote. "Those who do so are transgressing numerous prohibitions of the Sabbath and violating rules of proper conduct, and are certainly not serving a good example for their fellow Jews."

"The rabbis have repeatedly announced that these people are doing the wrong thing, and that it is forbidden. Unfortunately, there are always wild youngsters who think that they know better than the rabbis. They are doing such things not out of religious reasons, but rather for the sake of doing a prank and getting into an adventure. They desecrate the name of God and give a bad name to the multitudes of Orthodox Jews who completely refrain from such practices."

"The proper way to protest against the desecration of the Shabbat is to approach the person and invite him cordially for a Shabbat meal, or at least to say with a smile a warm 'Shabbat Shalom.' This will show the person that we have no hatred for him, but rather we wish to help him understand how much he can gain by keeping the Shabbat properly. No one forces us to keep Shabbat, but we enjoy it so much that we do so out of our free will," the rabbi responded.

Amen.

TELL ME WHY

Yolkless eggs rare, but safe

By JUDY SEGEL-ITZKOVICH

I bought some eggs at a kibbutz. Twice I found among them eggs without a yolk, only the white. How does this happen? Are they dangerous to eat? Should I report them to the health authorities? Elisha, Beersheba.

Prof. Yisrael Nir, a poultry expert at the animal nutrition department in the Hebrew University's agriculture faculty in Rehovot, replies:

This is a very rare occurrence, happening about once in 10,000

eggs. That you found two in one batch is very unusual. It occurs when a foreign object, like a grain of sand or a small pebble, enters the reproductive organs of the hen. It "fools" the gland called magnum, which produces the white of the egg, which is pure protein. The protein envelops the foreign object and it proceeds down to the gland that produces the shell.

When it's laid, it looks like a regular egg, but the surprise comes when it's cracked open. There is nothing dangerous about it, as it's the same protein as in a

normal egg.

If one wanted to, this can be accomplished artificially by inserting a little glass bead up the passageway near the magnum.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, 91000 Jerusalem, fax it to (02) 538-9527, or send it by e-mail to jusie@post.co.il. Please include your first name and place of residence.

DISK-COVERY

Judaica print shop on a disk

By JUDY SEGEL-ITZKOVICH

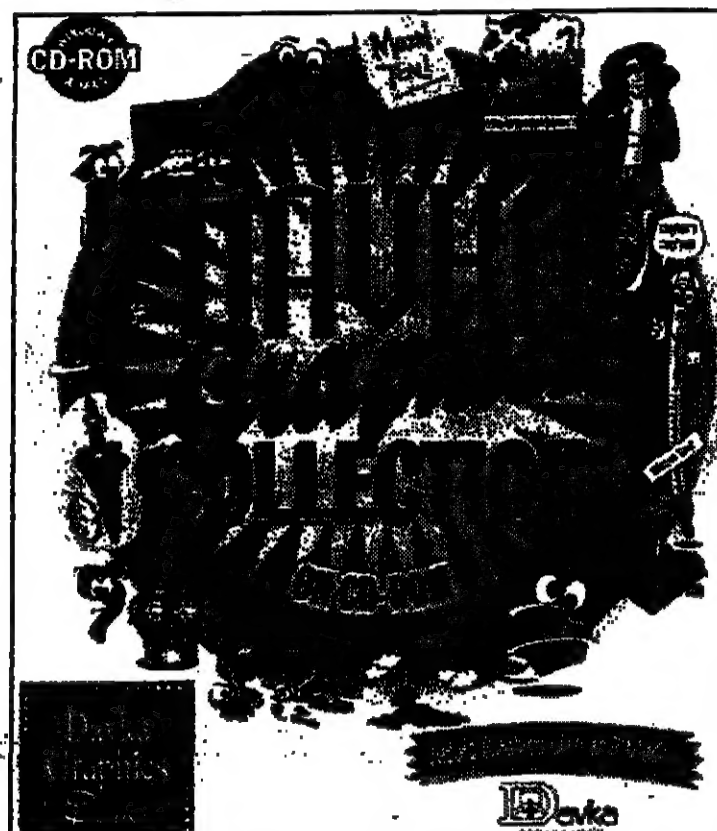
The Davka Graphics Collection, a CD-ROM by the Davka Corporation in Chicago, marketed here by Alan Rosenbaum (tel. 02-993-3470), \$79.95 or the shekel equivalent. Rating: four-and-a-half stars out of five.

This disk benefits children and adults, but doesn't have a single game, multimedia movie or even music. It's a library of over 500 full-color graphic images, all with Jewish themes. These images can be used by children for illustrating book reports or making greeting cards or presents, and by adults for producing brochures, bulletins, newsletters, birth announcements, bar-mitzva invitations and much more.

There are many ordinary graphics collections on the market, but Davka, a Jewish-oriented firm, is the best of my knowledge the only one to produce a CD-ROM solely with illustrations on Judaica themes.

The images can run with Print Shop Deluxe for Windows or Macintosh. They can also be used with virtually any Windows or Mac applications that can accept graphics. The variety of pictures is most impressive: there are endless illustrations to biblical verses, holiday images, Hebrew fonts, humorous animations, greetings for special occasions, attractive borders and an array of other images relevant to all aspects in Jewish life.

Even if you have none of these, you can easily go into your Windows' file manager and call up the images. You can then give the printer instructions to print it out in



Davka offers 500 color graphic images with Jewish themes.

any size. Color printers, of course, make the most of this fine collection, but even on a black-and-white dot-matrix printer the image is usable. For aficionados, the disk provides graphics in CGM, TIF, PCX and WMF formats for Windows and AI, EPS and PICT for Macintosh.

Instead of purchasing the entire collection, one can buy separate clip-art disks on Judaica, holidays and

Israel, and special occasions — each for \$24.95 or the shekel equivalent.

Bin' dinat Hayeladim, a CD-ROM in Hebrew, based on the English-language disk *Pansylvania* by Headbone Interactive (US), produced and distributed by Mirage Multimedia, for pre-school children, NIS 149. Rating: half a star out of five.

It's difficult to understand why Mirage Multimedia, which has translated and produced some fine computer programs for children, would have selected this lame disk. A grab bag of unconnected and largely irrelevant material, the disk is best described by one of the characters in it — a blackboard that yawns, stretches its arms and says: "I'm bored!"

The disk stars a pig named Wilma, a frog, a parrot and a king, the latter the ruler of a mythical place called Pansylvania, which has a factory that makes pants for every possible creature, from elephant to flea. The pig, who reminds one of Miss Piggy, can be clicked to get background information on an odd collection of subjects, such as how a submarine dives in the water and why lightning produces thunder. When the parrot is clicked, pedestrian puzzles are shown: one merely has to drag objects from a column on the left to the same images appearing in a complicated drawing.

The frog supplies a variety of time-consuming "assignments," such as dragging animals or objects into the funnel of an "invention machine" to change their form. The king, Melech Kishkushi, is the most annoying of all, as he hums and sings silly tunes that can't be stopped in the middle.

There are 11 scenes in which each of these characters does its thing, including the pants factory, a beauty parlor, a park, a schoolroom and a kitchen.

The whole program has neither rhyme nor reason and no educational value. I couldn't wait to delete the whole thing from my hard disk.

HEALTH SCAN

On-line diagnosis allows early detection of melanoma

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

Even an experienced dermatologist finds it hard to distinguish between a benign and a malignant mole in the early stages.

A more detailed and precise diagnosis demands skin-surface microscopy.

The University of Vienna has designed a portable system with an epiluminescence microscope that helps dermatologists not only look at the skin surface but also view and image the sub-surface layers of the skin (as deep as 0.5 millimeters below) for a more accurate diagnosis.

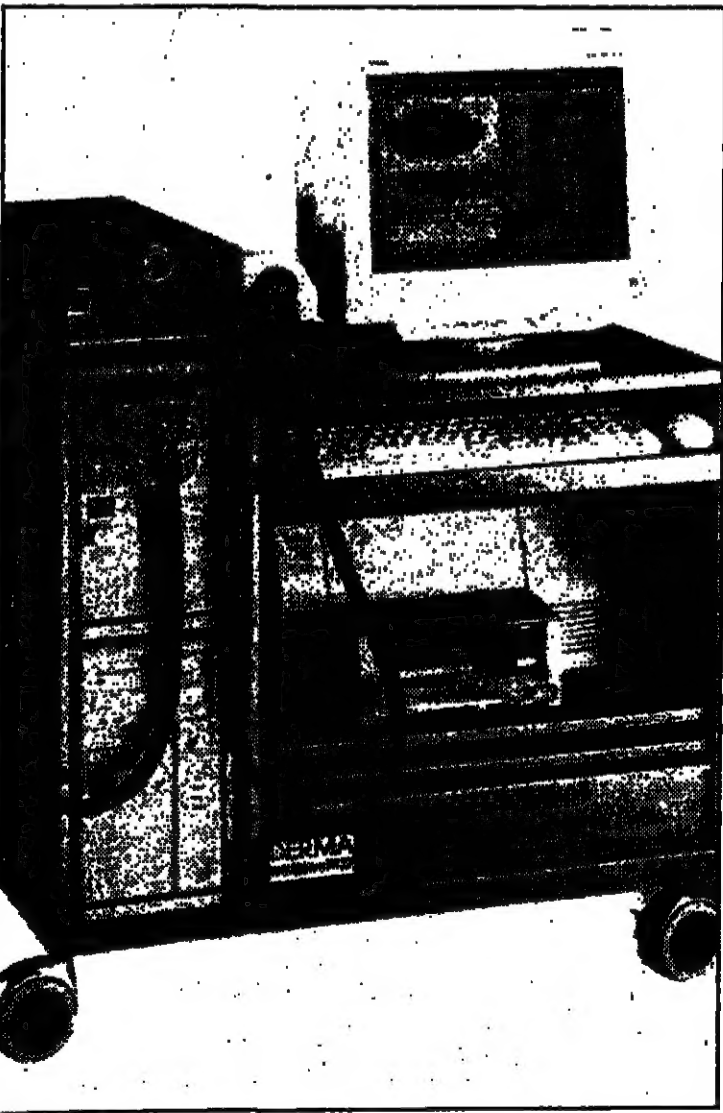
Conventional epiluminescence microscopes make storing images difficult and require the use of immersion oil.

But the Austrian device, whose commercial name is MoleMax II, has a microscope/video imager that is merely placed over a suspicious mole on the patient's skin.

The special microscope is linked to a computer for on-site viewing and storage of images which can be compared with images taken later to gauge changes in the mole.

The system, imported by Saifan Carmira Ltd. Precision Instruments in Tel-Aviv, has sent the system for evaluation at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem.

It will also be assessed soon at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva and by Kupat Holim Maababi.



A portable system for diagnosis of suspicious moles.

center for brain trauma, as well as a leading center for operating on the pituitary gland and for performing keyhole brain surgery.

WATERPROOF HEARING
Hearing aids are sensitive devices and often affected by humidity and dust.

Now an Israeli distributor, Micro Audio in Herzliya, is marketing a Swiss hearing aid claimed to be completely waterproof and usable in high-humidity environments.

Called Lotos, the hearing instrument can be worn while swimming, sailing and walking in the rain.

Conventional hearing aids have to be removed under such circumstances.

It can even be connected directly to a radio, TV or compact-disc player to avoid unnecessary surrounding sounds.

The instrument is now being fitted in audiological centers in a number of public hospitals and private centers nationwide.

HOTEL FOR CANCER KIDS
Ezer Mi'Zion, the voluntary organization that meets medical needs of the general population, has opened in Petah Tikva a \$6 million guest house for youngsters with cancer who need to be near any of three hospitals in the Dan region.

The Oranit guest house, dedicated in honor of the main initiators and supporters, Bracha and Moti Zisser, will charge only NIS 10 a day per guest.

Outpatients at the Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel in Petah Tikva, the Dana Children's Hospital in Tel-Aviv and Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer will be able to reside there while undergoing chemotherapy and other treatments.

Ezer Mi'Zion, founded 18 years ago by Rabbi Hananya Cholak, has 7,500 volunteers at 16 branches around the country and runs on an annual budget of \$7-million, most of it donated by private contributors here and abroad.

NEW WORLDS

By POST SCIENCE REPORTER

High-speed and high-volume telecommunications is the name of the game today, and scientists are racing to develop devices that allow more and faster information transmission. Now, a researcher at the Technion has developed an innovative machine for growing indium phosphate crystals in minimal, one-molecule layers, allowing precise control over the composition of semi-conductors.

The compact device was first built at the AT&T labs by Dr. Dan Riter of the Technion's electrical engineering faculty along with Robert Hamm and Dr. Morton Panish of AT&T. Riter was there for post-doctoral studies.

The solution to demands for faster and broader voice and computer communications is fiber-optic networks, which theoretically can transmit 1,000 billion phone calls at once. In practice, the number is today limited to a million simultaneous calls.

A single optic fiber connected to an apartment building can serve all residents instead of having to connect many conventional copper lines to each apartment. It can supply not only phone and computer communication lines, but also cable channels to each resident.

Eventually, all copper wires will be replaced by optic fibers. But meanwhile, the technology needed for such communications systems is not adequately developed.

Riter's small machine combines a low price, simple operation and maintenance systems and performance as high as large, and as expensive as existing machines that grow crystals. After three years in the US, he returned to work in his Technion lab, where he built a copy of the original version he constructed at AT&T.

PREDICTABLE LIGHTNING

Lightning will no longer be a bolt out of the blue, now that nearly two years of research and analysis of lightning in Israel has been completed by Tel Aviv University's Interdisciplinary Center for Technological Analyses and Prediction. Financed by the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, the findings are based on a comparison of the number of lightning bolts per square kilometer in various parts of the country.

The area with the most lightning is in Haifa (1.7 bolts per square kilometer, compared to an average of 0.13 in the rest of the country). In addition, it seems that most thunderstorms concentrate themselves in a narrow, 40-kilometer wide area east of the Mediterranean coast.

These storms cause tens of millions of dollars in damage each year, mostly in harm to electrical and telecommunications equipment and gas and petrol storage tanks. Lightning hits the power system either directly, or indirectly by causing fires. They may also cause a damaging magnetic field up to hundreds of kilometers away from where they struck.

According to the ministry, insulation of lines and installing transformers can partially solve the problem, but they are expensive. Thus, knowing where the most lightning strikes can indicate where most investments should be made.

VIDEO PARLOR AT HOME

As if youngsters didn't have enough action-packed computer and TV games, now Sony has developed an interactive TV game device called Playstation that looks almost like real life. If you have NIS 999 to spare, you can spoil your kids with what is "driving Americans crazy."

According to Ispar, Sony's representative in Israel, the mother company has already sold 12 million

Playstations, nearly half in Japan and the rest in the US and Europe.

Consisting of a console that connects by wires to the TV set, it uses CD-ROMs or ordinary compact disks to produce the 3-D video

action.

There are car races, battles, sports (basketball, soccer and tennis), various competitions, adventures and scary action. Or instead, you might want to buy them a book.

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Israel's red line

One day before Friday's suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, the families of the victims of last Purim's suicide bombing at Dizengoff Center gathered on a busy street corner to memorialize the 22 victims of that attack, one year ago. In both attacks, the hospitals treated children in blood-soaked Purim costumes.

Among the wounded in Friday's attack, which killed three Israelis, was a six-month old baby. The baby's mother was killed. One of the witnesses saw the bomber looking around the cafe, carefully picking a table as centrally located as possible. Presumably he saw the children around him and the stroller with a baby inside.

From a human perspective, it is hard to understand how someone could be capable of such a heinous act, and how others could consider such barbarism to be heroic. It is also mind-boggling to consider that the bomber himself, 28-year-old Moussa Ramintat, was the father of four.

The Purim holiday, which is a holiday celebrating the deliverance of the Jewish people from planned annihilation centuries ago, is becoming associated with grisly massacres in our own times, including that by Baruch Goldstein three years ago.

In the Scroll of Esther, Haman appears as an unadulterated villain. In today's saga, the picture is much murkier. The rejectionist group Hamas has taken "credit" for this latest atrocity, but the Israeli government has correctly placed substantial responsibility for the attack on Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. In recent days, besides hinting widely about the risk of "spontaneous" violence, Arafat released from prison Izzadin Kassam leader Ibrahim Maqadmeh. He also publicly met with Hamas leaders, and allowed a militant Hamas demonstration in Khan Yunis with Maqadmeh as the guest of honor.

PA Minister of Communications Imad Falouji, once a senior Hamas activist, attended the Khan Yunis meeting and said afterwards that he regrets the Tel Aviv attack, "but Israel pushed us to this."

Also at Khan Yunis, Sheikh Ahmed Baher, a leading Hamas preacher, called upon the PA to "open camps to train every Palestinian in the use of guns" and to end all talks with Israel.

The rally was attended openly by Islamic Jihad spokesman Abdullah Shami, who has not attended public activities since his release from prison six months after the Beit Lid suicide bombing in January 1995. At the time, he pledged to look for peaceful ways to work with the PA. On Friday he said, "We should throw this Oslo agreement which disunites us into the garbage can of history. Palestine - Jaffa, Haifa, Ramle - is calling us to liberate it with all means."

It is difficult to understand such statements as reflecting anything other than what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly called "a green light to terror." The fact that the

PA has now rearrested Maqadmeh and other suspects in Friday's bombing is not enough, however. Nor is it sufficient for Arafat to "arrest the usual suspects," as in the immortal line from the film *Casablanca*. It is also not enough to change the green light to terror back to the yellow light of caution that had shown previously. The traffic light must be uprooted entirely and replaced with a concrete barrier marked "Road Closed."

The recent attack and the events that preceded it show that Arafat has not made a final, strategic break from terrorism. It is true that Arafat has made real efforts to prevent terrorism against Israel. One cannot assign Arafat a share of the blame for this attack without giving him any credit for the lack of suicide bombings over the previous year. The problem is the lingering, clear impression that Arafat does not want to remove the terrorism card from his back pocket, to be thrown on the table whenever he declares a crisis with Israel.

Arafat's relationship with terrorism has progressed over the years. He began as head of a terrorist organization, then renounced terrorism but was caught later reverting to it, then renounced it again but did not condemn it, then condemned it but would not combat it, then combated it but would not dismantle the infrastructure behind it.

The pattern is of a man who has hung on to whatever shred possible of the terrorism option that was politically feasible, rather than make a complete and strategic break with that option. Though there are voices in the cabinet calling for cutting off the talks with the Palestinians in the aftermath of this latest attack, the talks will no doubt continue. Israel will, however, present Arafat with a series of demands for security measures that are required by Oslo but have not been carried out.

It is in Arafat's interest to accede to these demands, because they are fundamental to the continuation of the peace process. Arafat's dual game is no longer feasible. While the threat of terrorism may have at one point spurred Israelis to believe that an agreement with the Palestinians is necessary, now with every attack more and more Israelis believe such an agreement is not possible.

The fact that the Palestinians are blaming an Israeli decision to build a Jewish neighborhood in Jerusalem only accentuates this sense of futility. If the Palestinians insist on dividing Israel's capital, many Israelis reason, what hope is there for a lasting peace? Arafat must make the choice between peace and terror, not because the Israeli government says so, but because the people of Israel will not let their government reach a final status agreement with the Palestinians while the terror option remains on the table.

The Palestinians are not the only party with red lines. Terrorism must not be considered a switch that can be turned on and off; it must be disconnected.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE CHARTER WAS NOT ANNULLED

Sir, - Is it possible to negotiate with an organization whose aim is to free Palestine and to wipe out the State of Israel, as defined in its charter? Even so, the Rabin government signed the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians, who took upon themselves to annul the charter. The Palestinians received Gaza and Jericho. The charter was not annulled. The Israeli government armed the Palestinian police force with rifles. The charter was not annulled. Hebron was delivered to them. The charter

THAT IS THEIR RIGHT

Sir, - The future of the soon-to-be-completed Ramat Aviv mall, as far as Shabbat opening is concerned, is the business of the person who owns the mall, not Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, any individual shop owner or potential customer. The closing of the mall is not religious coercion. The mall is not a government-owned concern. It is privately owned by somebody who wishes that his business does not violate the Shabbat. That is his right.

Sir, - So Mayor Ronni Milo wants to cancel the Tel Aviv Marathon. Road running has become possibly the largest spectator sport in the world, even if it has not yet taken off in a big way in Israel. Milo cites motorists' complaints about traffic problems as the main concern. So what? We runners, along with cyclists and

PROUD OF WHAT?

Sir, - The opening words of Irma Erlanger's letter "Broadminded Approach" on March 2, checked dated "As a lesbian - and proud of it," brought to mind the story of the 38-year old man who was advised by a friend to consult a psychologist since none of the several doctors he

much wisdom) to fulfill our commitments. At the moment, Chairman Arafat is very angry: the Israeli government wants to pass on to the Palestinians only nine percent of Judea and Samaria! Only when Israel has a legislature, he promises, will the Palestinian covenant be annulled - perhaps. One thing is sure: we have to learn a lot from the Palestinians. They are negotiators second to none.

DR. HERBERT COHN

Ashdod.

Africa-Israel and deny them building rights if they decide to halt their business on the Sabbath. If non-observant members of the public feel the need to shop or go in search of a cheeseburger on the Sabbath, that is their right. There are plenty of locations and choices not far from Ramat Aviv where they can both shop and eat on the Sabbath.

EDGAR ASHER

Jerusalem.

on the international annual marathon calendar. If Tel Aviv can't generate the enthusiasm to host a run once a year, perhaps it should be relegated to the small town league. Or get a new mayor.

PATRICK GOODENOUGH

Jerusalem.

your bed?" "Oh, I do, but now I am proud of it!" What precisely is Irma Erlanger proud of? And why?

RAFAEL FISCH

Petach Tikva.



'Forced celebration'

STEWART WEISS

Amalek, the archetypal anti-semitic whose avowed purpose throughout the ages has been to destroy the Jewish people, struck again in Tel Aviv on Friday.

Grimly appropriate for the season, he was clad in the guise of Hamas. Slaughter as his aim, he wreaked havoc at a sunny outdoor cafe, killing three young women and wounding scores.

With uncanny timeliness, the special Torah portion read yesterday in the synagogue recalled Amalek, enjoining Jews never to forget what he did to us.

If this is the case, how can we celebrate Purim, with its obligation to make merry, to drink until we "can't tell the difference between 'Blessed be Mordechai and cursed be Haman'?"

One friend told me: "At the best of times, I can't be merry to order. I can't force myself to feel a certain way - and especially not now, after what happened on Friday." Indeed, "forced celebration" might seem a strange notion, distasteful, almost distressing.

Now Jews are no strangers to wine; they imbibe it every Shabbat and festival, and on every bit and wedding with it. But Purim imbibing is different; then we are specifically required to do some really serious drinking.

And although numerous commentators - uneasy perhaps about the free-flowing quality of the holiday - have tried to downplay this aspect, the unbridled revelry that characterizes the holiday has always seemed like a statement that this is one tradition Jews are determined to uphold.

When Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo announced that, despite the cafe attack, Purim festivities would go on, he was - though he may not have known it - echoing our sources. While telling us that the struggle against Amalek will continue in every generation, alongside that the Torah exhorts us "to rejoice and live our lives normally."

Easier said than done, many might comment. And they would have a point.

As the parades take to the streets and the carnivals get into full swing, many families are still in shock as their loved ones lie injured; others are sitting shiva. And scores of other families are just rising from their mourning periods of seven and 30 days after their loved ones - 80 altogether - were killed in the helicopter and school outing tragedies.

How can they partake of the

spirits - literal and figurative - necessary to fulfill the Purim experience? And can we as a nation engage in drinking and partying while all these wounds are still so fresh?

Here our tradition has something priceless to offer, displaying not only keen insight into the human psyche, but determination to keep us on the even emotional keel we need to survive.

Jews are a people who have stared death and disaster in the eyes throughout their history. Virtually every positive chapter in our national story - from Pessah to Hanukkah to the War of Independence - is a mixture of bitter and sweet, suffering and salvation.

If, as our critics say, we tend to see an antisemitic lurking behind every rock, it is because in every generation we have fought enemies, and become of necessity wary and defensive.

Can we engage in Purim partying with the horror of death and injury so fresh?

And yet we seem to have a strength that allows us to bounce back from misfortune, to celebrate life anew with apparently undampened enthusiasm.

Where does this "survival instinct" come from?

To me it is clear that we have acquired it over the centuries, and that it is a product of that same ancient tradition that has disciplined us to integrate the positive with the negative, the smile with the solemnity.

It is that discipline, that programming, which enables us to cry for our fallen on Remembrance Day and then, in the blink of an eye, celebrate our independence as a reborn nation.

The events of the Purim story were frightening in their implications.

There we were, surrounded by Jew-haters, caught in the quicksand of the Exile, on the brink of destruction despite the privileged position we thought we enjoyed. Mordechai was at once adviser to the king, and the principal object of Haman's wrath.

We could have been so trauma-

lized back then by our hanging on the precipice that we could have receded into silence, shock, and ultimately vanished. Instead, we emerged from the trauma with feasting and flair.

That is how we are molded. That resilience has become our strength, our survival mechanism.

The commandment regarding what Amalek did to us is "to remember, and never forget." An obvious question: Why the double language? If we never forget, won't that be remembering? And while we're remembering, isn't that an assurance we will never forget?

Both acts are necessary, however. On the one hand, we are obliged to remember, at specific times and in detailed fashion, the fallen of our nation, the pogroms and disasters of our past.

But because we have experienced so many disasters, so many heartbreaking episodes throughout our history, we were required to remember them constantly and continuously, we would end up emotionally and psychologically paralyzed. We could never go forward, so immobilized would we be by those past horrors constantly before our eyes.

So it is sufficient, most of the time, simply "not to forget," to store the grim knowledge in a hidden place, ready for confronting when it is called for. This is the framework in which Purim, perhaps more than any other festival, needs to be seen.

We have witnessed disaster these past weeks. We witnessed it on Friday. We shook our heads in disbelief, raised our hands to heaven in despair, and cried over the young innocents whose lives were snuffed out.

Yet, as a nation, we have the strength to switch emotional gears. Our celebrating Purim isn't a sign that we have forgotten; it just means we are allowing the ingrained optimism born of survival to take us over and move us onward.

As we raise a glass or two, therefore, we do not forget those who died and were maimed. That remembrance is already part of us.

We drink to Esther and Mordechai, and the deliverance of the Jews of Persia. And we drink to ourselves - a people that cries, and has the strength to carry on.

The writer directs the Jewish Outreach Center of Ra'anana and Midreshet Torah V'Emanah Women's Seminary in Jerusalem.

Freeze the process for now

MICHAEL B. OREN

territorial cards before the real game has even begun. No more of Arafat's efforts to sick the international community on Israel whenever it defies his agenda.

The talks should be held in the US, Camp David-style, with President Clinton in the role of chief mediator; no doubt he'll

Arafat needs to know that the game has changed

leap at the offer. King Hussein and President Mubarak can be brought in, in the talks' latter stages, lending their imprimatur; and the Europeans can approve the final draft - whatever it takes to conclude the talks as quickly and as conclusively as possible, and in a framework that Arafat won't dare disrupt with terror.

In entering the final settlement talks, Israel's position must reflect the broadest national consensus - which is all the more reason to form a unity government.

Shimon Peres, a man of global stature, could take the edge off Netanyahu's PR problems and

keep him from being dragged into further crises by some of his more rightist ministers. Peres's presence in government would greatly contribute to Israel's ability to withstand international pressure for concessions to the Palestinians, while maintaining at least civil relations with Arab rulers who have thus far shunned Netanyahu.

The premier of a Likud-Labor coalition can wield the authority and exercise the leadership necessary to draw Israel's permanent borders around Jerusalem and those areas vital to its national interests.

In this latest round of P.L.O.-sanctioned violence, Arafat has seriously overplayed his hand. For all the brouhaha he's drummed up around it, the construction at Har Homa cannot serve as a casus belli, as a justification for killing Israelis.

Israel can turn Arafat's mistake to its advantage by establishing, once and for all, that terror has no place in a peace process. It can use the sad events of the last few days as a rallying point for national unity, and for rapidly securing an end to its century-long struggle with the Palestinians.

The writer lectures on Middle-Eastern affairs.

Rabbits & hats

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEY

The prime minister was absolutely right when, soon after Friday's terror attack, he attacked those who linked the event to the decision to build on Har Homa. And he was right in accusing the Palestinian Authority of appearing to sanction such attacks at this juncture. Finally, he was right in instructing the General Security Service to sit down immediately with its Palestinian counterparts.

He was right because, irrespective of what the government does or doesn't do, there are and will continue to be individuals and organizations on the other side bent on committing such acts, and because those who fail to do everything in their power to prevent them - not to mention those who appear to encourage them - cannot shrug off all responsibility.

There's just one problem with Netanyahu's reaction. Were Shimon Peres prime minister today, Netanyahu would have been the first to argue that the attack was the result of the government's policy; and that anyone who relies on "the arch-squanderer" Arafat and his "gang of terrorists" for security, is getting only what he deserves.

Netanyahu has had many chances to ask both Peres and Yitzhak Rabin's widow to forgive him for making similar accusations in the past. A large part of his election campaign, in

Israel needs something different than a national unity government

fact, was based on them. Netanyahu has never asked for any forgiveness. I do not know whether this is because the word *shiva* doesn't figure in the vocabulary of the average Israeli macho male of his generation (though Netanyahu did use it before the Likud leadership primaries in 1993, after his adultery was revealed - when failing to beg his wife's pardon might have ruined his chances of winning), or because he is a megalomaniac, who truly feels he is God's gift to this nation, as opposed to Rabin and Peres, who were mistakes of history. Perhaps it's a bit of both.

SO what about the idea of a national unity government, which has surfaced again for the umpteenth time?

No self-respecting Labor leader should humiliate himself when Netanyahu is clearly not serious about the notion, only about appearing as the hero of the hour. The peace process can be supported from outside the government, as Yossi Beilin and Ehud Barak, the two Labor leadership hopefuls are advocating.

Were Netanyahu genuinely interested, he would have asked the Labor leaders' pardon for his accusations. He could have done so when the research center named after Yitzhak Rabin was opened; and he missed another chance on Friday.

But one suspects that the last thing Netanyahu wants is to have to spend his time figuring out what Shimon Peres might be scheming behind his back; or giving Barak, his former commander in the IDF and future rival in the elections for the premiership, the chance to earn points from within the government.

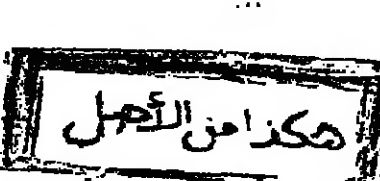
I suspect that for Netanyahu, therefore, a national unity government is little more than a threat he can wave at his disgruntled coalition partners when calling them to order, and a soothing thought when he thinks of the possible ramifications of the police investigation into the Bar-On affair.

What Israel needs today is not a national unity government but a well-thought-out and consistent policy, rigorously implemented. This includes confronting the issue of terrorist attacks - which Netanyahu now knows is as much his problem as it was the previous government's, and which can only be effectively dealt with in cooperation with the Palestinian Authority.

Friday's meeting between the GSS and the Palestinian security apparatus was an admission on the prime minister's part that he realizes this.

There must also be serious thought and strategic planning on the future of the peace process. Pulling out the idea of going straight to negotiations on a permanent settlement, without any prior preparation, like pulling a rabbit out of a hat, simply isn't serious.

The writer is a political scientist.



THERE AND THEN

Memorial history

By SHAY SHAPIRO

Visiting Tel Hai in 1928, where Josef Trumpeldor and his companions were murdered seven years earlier, Sir Alfred Mond (eventually Lord Melchett) felt disgraced. Only a simple plaque covered the tomb of the hero whose life and death kindled the imagination of innumerable followers in the pursuit of the Zionist dream. Returning to Jerusalem, Sir Alfred assigned sculptor Aharon Melnikoff to build a monument in the form of a lion cut in the typical Galilee black basalt.

Piqued by such a manifestation of private initiative, the Histadrut, as well as the Zionist organization, declared their intentions to erect a memorial worthy of its symbolic importance in Tel Hai. Finally, however, all three initiatives merged, and Melnikoff designed "The Roaring Lion," which since 1934 has been the focus of pilgrimages for youth movements.

Trumpeldor was a legend. Other victims of Arab terrorism never reached that status. Ilana Shamir observes in *Hantzaha Vezikaron* ("Commencement and Remembrance," published by Am Oved, 234 pp.), a study based on her doctoral thesis. Is it because the defenders of Tel Hai were regarded in their day as supporting a mission, an ideal, as opposed to, for example, the four killed in the Arab assault on Petah Tikva at about the same time, who were defending only their property and honored only by their families and Bnei Binyamin, an organization of private farmers?

In the politically splintered Yishuv, politically motivated memorials were inevitable. But other elements, too, had their influence. Batya Lishansky, when she shaped the memorial for the Hilda victims of Arab attacks, made Ephraim Chizhik, one of the victims, the centerpiece of a naturalistic sculpture including Chizhik's sister (killed in Tel Hai) and a third, male, figure. She called her sculpture "Work and Defense," illustrating farm equipment at the foot of the monument.

The symbol was appreciated in Labor circles, but the more traditionally inspired critics were uneasy about displaying human figures in a Jewish memorial. However, there seems to have been few objections to the memorial to Alexander Zaid, who is represented riding a horse on top of a mountain in Galilee.

At the establishment of the Hatzotz settlement on the Lebanese border in 1938, 10 defenders lost their lives.

Nine are honored by a memorial; the 10th, a member of the opposition Betar organization, has a separate tablet beside the Hanita remembrance monument. A statue designed by Yitzhak Danziger, erected besides the road leading from Rosh Pina to Safed, honors Shlomo Ben-Yosef, a Betar member who was hanged by the British for firing on an Arab bus in protest at numerous attacks by Arabs on Jewish targets.

The War of Independence, leaving thousands dead, spurred a profusion of memorials. It was apparently Moshe Dayan who suggested leaving in place the burned-out armored vehicles hit on their ascent to Jerusalem in 1948 (although they had to be repainted not very long ago to save them from utter corrosion). Members of Palmach units who took part in the battle for Jerusalem insisted on having their particular memorial stone near the Harel bridge.

A special department was created in the Ministry of Defense to introduce some method for commemorating those killed in the line of duty. It operated under mounting pressure from associations of bereaved families and comrades of the fallen soldiers. "Our sons have made history, we want to see that they are honored," the Yad Labanaim (Memorial for the Sons) group in Tel Aviv stressed. And prime minister David Ben-Gurion let it be known that he wished to mark, with a stone, every spot where an important event took place.

Dr. Shamir estimates that over a thousand memorials of every sort are scattered all over Israel. Some are remarkable works of art, designed by a Danny Caravan or an Igal Tumarkin, which can only be seen from afar in the Negev or the Jordan Valley. Many are just huge rocks shaped by amateur acquaintances of local associations of mourners. Some are buildings, known as Yad Labanaim, which serve as meeting places for cultural activities. Practically every army corps has a place which serves as a pilgrimage site, at which the memory of the fallen is periodically honored.

But we have no Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This is probably in keeping with the Jewish tradition that all dead must have an identified tombstone. So, at the insistence of bereaved families, the names of the fallen are inscribed on most memorials, whatever their artistic ambition. However, the collective memory is marked, the bitter unsubduable individual agony is epitomized in the few letters that compose a name.



A Jewish family of Cochin in the early part of the century.

(Courtesy of Elia Madal)

The last Jews of Cochin

In southern India, a thousand-year-old Jewish community has enjoyed warm relations with its neighbors. Emily Kasriel meets the last Jews living in Cochin's Jewtown district

There are few places in the world where Jews can claim centuries of peaceful coexistence with the local population. The district of Jewtown in Cochin on the Malabar Coast of Southern India is one of them.

It is a community which has survived for more than a thousand years, witnessing successive waves of conquerors and traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British. These foreigners, as well as the Jews who came before them, were enticed by the rich spices of this tropical coast: cardamom, cinnamon, ginger, and above all, pepper. But today most of the Jews have emigrated.

The current and probably last leader of the remaining community is Samuel Hallegua, whose own family came to Cochin in 1590 from Spain via Syria. When Samuel Hallegua, or Uncle Sammy as he's known in Jewtown, takes the two-minute stroll up Synagogue Lane to the Paradesi synagogue, he knows it is a walk that his ancestors have made for hundreds of years. "The whole street is home," he says. "We were an extended family more than a community, and so it was until the very end of this street."

Synagogue Lane is a narrow street protected from the tropical sun by old houses painted ochre, lime and sky blue. A generation ago most of them were lived in by Jewish families. Today antique shops are more common as there are only a few dozen Jews left. The majority have chosen to leave India and start a new life in one of the many Jewish communities in Israel.

Yet a strong sense of community still exists in Cochin. Sammy's wife, Queeny, tempts foreign guests and friends who have known the family for generations with spicy delicacies unique to Cochin Jewry. Not chicken soup but chicken curry laced with

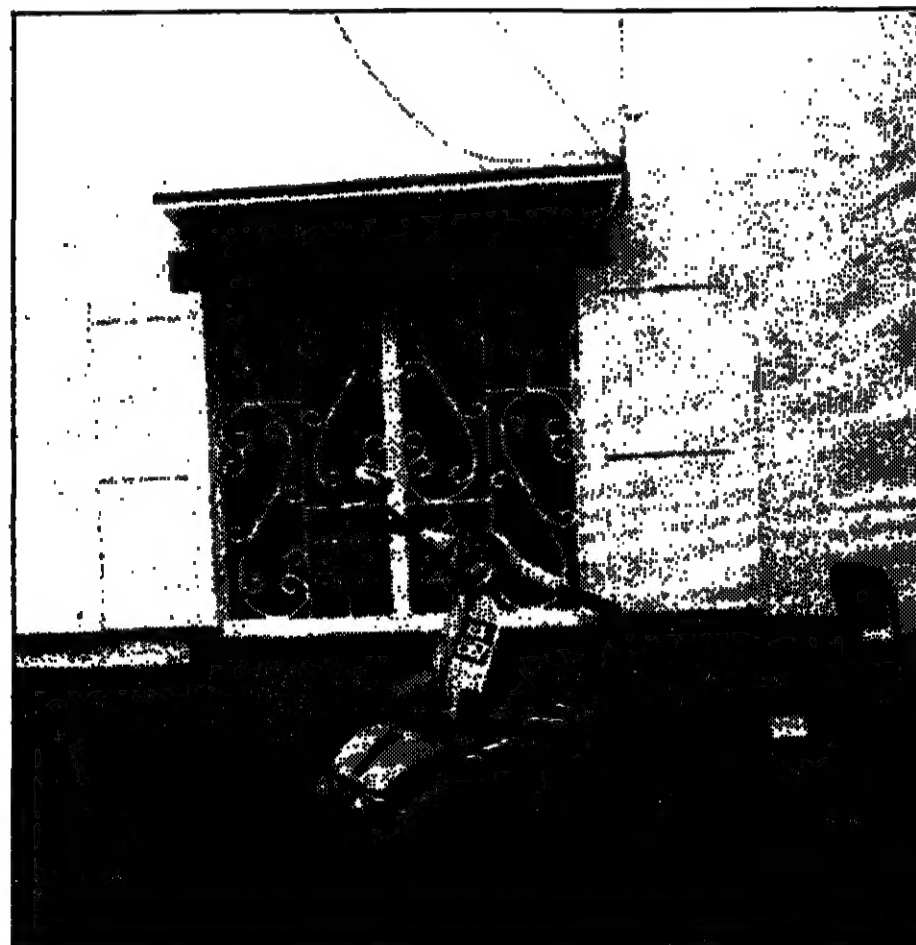
the hot chilies, coconut and coriander of Kerala. There is no contradiction as far as they are concerned in the pride Sammy and his community feel in being both Indian and Jewish; their Jewish identity is infused with the history of their ancestors in India. No one knows when Jews first came to settle in the Malabar coast, most scholars put it at over 1,500 years ago. When the Portuguese came here in the 16th century and threatened the Jews, it was the local Hindu maharaja who offered them sanctuary and land to build a synagogue.

Today the Paradesi Synagogue stands only a stone's throw away from the maharaja's temple as a living reminder of that act of welcome. The local Hindu population continues to speak of the Jews very fondly even though their numbers are so few. Professor Jussay, an Indian expert on the Jewish community, spoke of Cochin Jewry as a very long strand, although it is a thin strand, giving color to the whole fabric of Indian society.

Without the help of foreign Jewish visitors it can be difficult to make a minyan every Saturday, but festivals are celebrated with a joyous enthusiasm. There is no rabbi so Sammy leads the service and everyone joins in. There are prayer books hand-written in Hebrew as well as the local language of Malayalam, and many of the melodies sung are unique to Cochin Jewry.

The synagogue itself is over 400 years old and is covered with blue and white hand-painted floor tiles brought from China in the 18th century by one of Sammy's ancestors, Ezekiel Rahabi. Rahabi was a prominent member of the community who was also the foremost spice trader of the time and the representative of the Dutch East India company.

Sammy is an effective leader of the community. He encourages young people to



An iron window grille in Jewtown.

(Sara Menahem)

learn more about their Jewish tradition and welcomes foreign dignitaries such as President Ezer Weizman, who visited last December. But there is no one to succeed him. His son David celebrated a traditional Cochin Jewish wedding last year, yet it was held in Los Angeles where he now lives. The few young people left believe that to live a full Jewish life they too will have to emigrate. Yet Sammy himself could never consider leaving Jewtown. "I've heard people who have gone for the first time to Israel

and breathed in the air [and] say something is different. For me this is where I want to live and the air I want to breathe. A fish out of water won't survive and I won't survive outside Cochin."

You can hear Emily Kasriel's documentary about Samuel Hallegua and the history of the Jews of Cochin on the Omnibus program of the BBC World Service radio on Monday March 24 at 11:30 a.m., repeated at 2:01 p.m., and on Tuesday 25th at 2:30 a.m. GMT.

HEADS 'N' TAILS

Pets as gifts

By DYORA BEN SHAUL

Puppies, kittens and other animals are not toys. They should never be given as gifts unless one knows exactly what their future is likely to be. It is amazing how many people have unwanted pets and are proud that they "got rid of them all" by giving them away, usually to neighborhood children.

In most cases, they did not ask the parents of the child if they wanted the responsibility of a small animal. The child "fell in love" with the puppy, and they gave it to him without question. In most cases, the child assured them it would be "OK" with the parents. I often tell men who want to buy a puppy for their children that I would like to speak with their wives. In 99 percent of the cases I have observed, it is the wife who accepts the responsibilities entailed in keeping an animal.

So, except in special circumstances, I don't think animals should ever be given as gifts. Even when I have a stray animal that I have taken

in, cleaned up and taken to the veterinarian for injections, I make sure that whoever gets the animal pays for the inoculations. People who won't pay for these cannot be trusted to call a veterinarian if the animal is ill or properly provide for it.

It is not a very flattering criticism of humans, but people show more respect toward things for which they paid. When a puppy you bought makes a spot on the carpet, it is somehow less of a disaster than if it was by the dog someone just dumped on you.

Too many pets are given to enthusiastic children who bring them home, and the parents immediately throw them out. This is one of the reasons for so many stray animals on the streets. So, whether you have an unwanted litter or if you are looking for a home for a stray you have taken in, then advertise it wherever you can. But, specify that the new owners must pay, at least, for the inoculations and any medical care it has received. In this way you help assure the animal will get a proper home.

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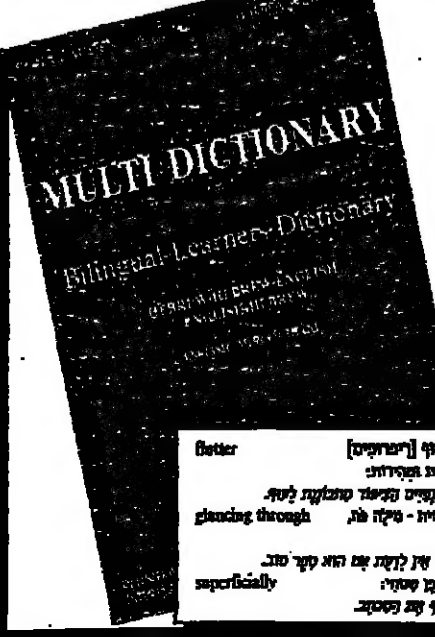


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'Pest' finds a polite bus driver

Exclusive interview, Magazine

Ovadia Yosef's Ashkenazi roots

Page 13

Israel's NY envoy asks: 'Aht medaberet Ivrit?'

Amud 8

Faisal Hussein Index	
Exploding	5
Really mad	8
Rabid	11
Boiling over	11
Finished with you	6
Sports	10

You're doin' fine, Okla Homa

Dairy: Oh, what a
beautiful *shtetl*

By ROGER HAMMERSTEIN

Following its fiasco in attempting to build a Jewish neighborhood in eastern Jerusalem, the government has launched a sequel to Har Homa.

On the plains of Moab, near the McDonald's restaurant that graces the skyline, Prime Minister Bibi Netan-Yahoo has decided to build

Atlanta Braves mascot
Chief Knock-a-Homa: They
stole my name, Page 2

once again — this time, the new settlement of Okla Homa.

"We know we belong to the land," crooned Bibi.

"And the land we belong to is grand," chimed in Netan-Yahoo's senior adviser David Bar-None.

The new neighborhood will be equally divided into secular and religious tracts. The latter group,

comprised mostly of farmers, intend to build fences to keep their livestock in place.

"We sincerely hope that the secular won't build fences across our cattle ranges," said spokesman Rabbi Aryeh Dairy.

To ensure peaceful coexistence, the government is sponsoring a box social where the farmers and the cowboys can get to know one another.

"We'll get along fine," said Dairy, "as long as the square dancing is segregated. Our people dosey-do separately."

"We also request that daylight savings time not be instituted to allow us the opportunity to pray *Shaharit* as well as sing "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning!"

One sticking point may be transportation. The religious claim that only they are permitted to drive the surrey, especially the one with the fringe on top.

"That's fine," said farmer spokeswoman, Shulamit Annie Oakley. "Whenever Rabbi Dairy starts to talk purty, I can't say no."



Aryeh Dairy, home on the range.

Repetition again and again... and again

By LOIS and CLARK

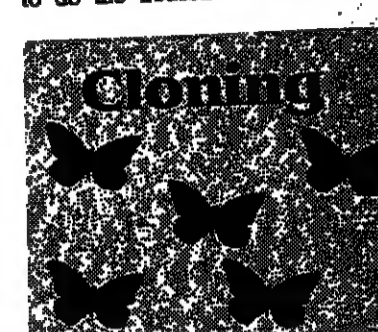
At a press conference held yesterday, *The Jerusalem PEST* announced a startling new development in print journalism: The newspaper has learned to clone reporters.

"We're tired of this uneven quality of writing," said editor-in-chief Geoff Gobreke. "So we took a poll, decided who our best two writers are, and then made 10 copies of each. It's kind of funny when they all show up at staff meetings, but we're getting used to it."

This information would explain why ace reporter Jusie Seagull was seen simultaneously at a medical convention, a Brit and her dentist's. Similarly, the presence of David McKugel at the prime minister's press conference, a Betar soccer game and a backyard barbecue can now be understood without resorting to extraterrestrial explanations.

"And the best part of it," jubilant managing-editor Carl Schroege, "is that they're all the same people. We only have to pay

two salaries for the lot." Seagull was equally enthusiastic, but for different reasons. "I send two of them home every day to do the household chores and



pick up the kids. It's great." The down side was voiced by Ms. McKugel who has noticed an increase in her food bills and laundry loads. "There's also another problem," she said. "Can you imagine 11 Davids on Friday night all singing *Shalom Aleichem* off key?"

Continued on Page 7



No more Mr. Nice Guy. Referees and coaches will be packing heat this track season.

Jumping the Gun

By NOMO JOHO

The International Olympic Committee has developed a novel approach to runners who make false starts: shoot them.

"We're already the judges. Now we're going to be the executioners as well," said Cambodian referee Pot Shot.

"Early starts have marred the game for years. All that steroid abuse. The runners can't keep still," he

said. "Plus, it's not like we shoot to kill or anything."

In addition to incurring a fine, any athlete shot is automatically disqualified from that day's events. As Mr. Shot was speaking, an ambulance whisked away a young runner with an untimely case of the hiccups.

"From now on, when they jump the gun, the gun is gonna jump right back. If they can't keep still, let 'em try out for the pole vault."

New revelations in Dairy- Bar-Off-Hebron-South Lebanon-Damascus- Law of Return- IDF motivation- Har Homa scandal

By AYALA 'SCOOP' CHALFEN

In a shocking announcement to the Knesset yesterday, Shas MK Aryeh Dairy declared that he will accept the appointment of a reform rabbi as Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem on condition that charges against him relating to the Bar-Off scandal relating to charges against him about fraudulent activity are dropped.

"We have come to a deal," Dairy allegedly claimed. "The IDF will withdraw from Lebanon, Yossi Sorey will be given a house in Damascus, Syrian President Hafez al-Assad will be built a home on Har Homa, the Kotel will be opened to non-segregated prayer, the Law of Return will not be updated, Bar-Ilan Street will be closed on Shabbat, yeshiva students will serve in the army, IDF combat soldiers will be served Chinese food and Ora Nicehair will remain in China."

Nobody was present at the plenum to hear his statement. However, a janitor, who is currently being questioned by the police, said he overheard Dairy's speech while removing manure from Eatingwell Sharon's seat.

"That Sharon!" the cleaner said. "Can't he clean his shoes after mucking about his ranch?"

After screaming about the mess Sharon makes every time he enters the Knesset, the cleaner said he heard Dairy exclaim that justice will be done and that there is no corruption in the government.

In a later interview, Dairy downplayed the importance of his statement, saying he was speaking randomly from the podium, preparing his voice elevation for his upcoming defense at the Supreme Court.

"These comments are outrageous and blatant lies," Knesset Speaker Dan Tolkon told a Channel 1 interviewer in an off-the-record conversation. "I have almost a dozen of

**The
everyone's-
in-on-it affair**

my boys awaiting trial or on trial. I wouldn't believe a word that any of them say."

Asked if this was a satisfactory response to this mindblowing compendium of payoffs which could only have been compiled in a sequence of back-room meetings, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kojakni said that leaking secret documents does not pose a threat to the country's security, clearly referring to Agriculture Minister Rafi Eitan's recent acquittal. Foreign Minister David Beitshean did not understand the question.

Outside a father-and-son Purim fancy dress party, Prime Minister Binyamin Netan-Yahoo and his son Yair, both dressed up as Rav Ovadia Yossef, spoke to reporters. "I want to go back to the party, daddy," said the little Yossef, scratching his beard. "How does this man see through such dark lenses?" Netan-Yahoo senior replied. Neither appeared to grasp the seriousness of the situation which could cause a split in the coalition, a collapse of the government, a civil war, and the possibility of Elvis becoming prime minister.

"We have to walk in the footsteps of peace. Love me tender," Elvis said in a heavy Polish accent. MK Shi-moan Peres was apparently under the Elvis Costume.

Dairy is supposed to appear in the Knesset tomorrow to review his statement. Close aides say that in his usual style, he will probably not attend.

Hole-ly war averted at Education Ministry

By JERRY ATTRICK

A major row at the Education Ministry was averted last night, following haredi complaints of "Trinitarian notebooks."

"I was sitting in my office yesterday," said deputy director Moshe Tuschitzer, when three yeshiva students and their rabbi burst in on me, waving notebook paper in my face. At first, I thought they were going to set me alight."

"We object to three-ring loose-leaf paper," said the leader, Rabbi Wertheim of the Bar-Ilan Hilltop

Yeshiva, "because it brings up associations with the Christian concept of the Trinity. If the children start writing on *goyische* stationery, what's to stop them from writing novels later on, like that *schmutzige yid*, Philip Roth?"

When a compromise was suggested — that two-ring paper be used — the Rabbi at first objected because it still undermined the One God approach. He later agreed when it was pointed out that the two holes could be understood as two synagogues: the one he goes to, and the one he would n't be caught dead in.

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Launch Pampers, not missiles

Throwing dirty diapers has, over the past few months, become the latest Haredi weapon against the Shabbat-breaking public. Driving down Bar-Ilan Street on Shabbat can be a dirty, smelly and, of course, you like soiled diapers.

In a call to battle, Bar-Ilan tactics have clearly been borrowed from both the Intifada youth and Gypsy Malone. But instead of sticks and stones, ammunition has been usurped by the "splurge." Bar-Ilan has become the real-life, modern day version of Alan Parker's 1929 New York. Swap the late-night diners for falafel stands, change the behind-the-stage night-club offices for behind-the-ark local shitebeles, and move the mull from the salon into the kitchens, and there you have it.

And just like the original, the entire story is played by kids. Kids because what sort of responsible, honorable adult would throw dirty diapers (unless they were throwing out the trash)?

The @!#! has literally bit the fat. But the dirty diapers have not helped close the case. Taken to the Knesset, they sat on it (no pun intended) and then, not so promptly, referred it to the supreme court. The supreme court, in truly diplomatic, though perhaps non-judicial style, set up committees to make a decision on what will happen to Rehov Bar-Ilan. A perfect system to ensure that an edict on the case is not forthcoming. Neither institution is prepared to make a ruling for fear of a nasty backlash. Neither are willing to either enforce the closure of the road or to make unsanitary disposal of diapers an offense.

Sure the environmentalists aren't up in arms; the extra fertilizer is a delivery from God, true mamas-in-the-wilderness style.

But maybe, thinking about it more carefully, the revival of a (technologically updated) splurge gun is actually a blessing in disguise. Consider it: Living in an area of apparently intractable conflict, couldn't the introduction of such weaponry be the

region's savior? Semites were born to quarrel; turning those swords into diaper-firing splurge guns could seriously reduce fatalities in our unresolvable squabble.

If the Altalena had been bringing diapers into Palestine in 1948 it is most likely that the Hagana would not have attacked the Etzel ship, cutting down one of the fundamentals of left-wing/right-wing division in its infancy. If Count Bernadotte had been hit by a diaper instead of a bullet whilst driving near Jerusalem's Islamic Museum in September of that year, the Swedish diplomat could possibly have progressed further with cementing an Arab/Jewish peace accord.

And this is only before the birth of the state. Can you imagine the headlines of June 5 1967: "Entire Egyptian airforce splattered by diapers in preemptive Israeli strike"? Or how the region would now interact if in October '73, the Egyptian Third Army had been surrounded by the IDF in the Sinai and faced being diapered? Would the Soviets have become so enraged and would the US have thought it necessary to enter the highest state of alert? And would the situation in South Lebanon be less tender if the Hizbullah had been firing diapers on Israel's northern towns and settlements? Or if Iraq had fired long-range diapers at Tel Aviv in 1991 - would that have been real biological-chemical warfare?

What's more, using diapers instead of missiles would save the countries in the region a fortune; war would be much less financially constrained - and fatalities reduced. Making a diaper bomb is cheap and easy: just add a baby to some metabolically stimulating food, mix, wait a short while, and bob's your uncle.

Not only are these homemade weapons more legal than a sawed-off shotgun, but the source of weapons are endless because the more babies you have, the more diaper bombs you can produce. Perhaps the Bar-Ilan possee, the Boyz in the Shtrimeils, have got a lot to teach us.

YOU CALL YOURSELF A PARENT?

Go on, snoop on your kids

By RUTH RAISIN

Our 38-year-old daughter has been acting strangely lately. She stays in her room a lot, keeps to herself and seems very secretive. Could she be getting into sex?

Child and adult psychiatrist Alan Flashback replies:

She should be so lucky!

Mood swings and changes in attitudes and behavior are common and may simply be signs of normal angst. But if your daughter walks with a lighter step, if her cheeks have developed a special glow, if she no longer checks the dollar exchange rate first thing every morning, she may be on to something you've already forgotten.

To explore what is going on, you might do the following:

1. Talk to her. Ask her directly whether her life has improved significantly. There is no need to confront her about possible details. You could say something like, "You're not talking to us like you used to." It is important for parents to let their child know that they see what is going on in his or her life.
2. Find out if other people in your child's life - friends, neighbors, peeping Toms - share your concerns and/or have information that you lack. Don't keep this exploration a secret from your child.
3. Check the sheets.
4. If, after you take these steps you continue to have concerns, you may want to intervene. Try to get

support as early as possible. When parents feel alone, they often feel helpless. One excellent source of support is Parents for Celibate Daughters, a group funded by Just One Wife, a not-for-profit organization that supports female premarital chastity.

If the behavior change turns out not to be sex-related, you should really start worrying.

I'm embarrassed to write this, but in my four-year-old's nursery school, all the children pick their noses and eat the snot. Now my son has started doing it too. Is there a nutritional reason for it?

Nasa Litch, experienced kinder-

garten teacher and nutritionist, replies:

It is natural and normal for children to look at, smell, touch and even taste all their bodily secretions (although not all have any nutritional value). Recent studies, however, have shown that snot is an excellent source of calcium and salt, which is probably the explanation for the little tykes' gustatory explorations.

It is a pity that parents are expected to teach their children manners in an age-appropriate way. Otherwise, you could look forward to cutting down on your food bill.

If you think we know more than you do about parenting, write to: POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

WE'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE WRONG

Oh no! They're coming for us

By DENNIS THE MENACE and DANGEROUS DAN

Reliable intelligence sources (i.e. our imaginations) have warned the writers of this column of a sinister plot to destroy Israel. An unholy alliance of Arab states, Western profiteers and bleeding-heart liberals are secretly organizing an attack on Masada, eternal symbol of Jewish heroism and hope for the future.

Our sources tell us how Mossad mole "Efes Pa'amayim Sheva" penetrated the hidden headquarters of a mysterious international organization so secretive that not even its members know its name. On a

cold, wet winter's morning on Paris' Rue Aggrandissement, Sheva, disguised as a tea lady, uncovered a wicked scheme to deal a massive blow to the Jewish state. The ultimate goal is to kick the Jews so far into the sea that we'll wash up somewhere around the Bay of Biscay.

Armed with only a selection of cakes and cookies, and at great risk to himself - recalling such heroic Israeli deeds as the liberation of Jerusalem, the raid on Entebbe, and Cinderella Rockefeller - Sheva lingered over the custard creams. His black garters were too tight, his stockings were killing him, but Sheva remembered his

training. While pretending to pour cups of tea, he committed the plot to memory.

Following the success of campaigns such as Iran the World, Just Say No (to the Zionist entity), and Band Aid (a front organization for notorious Arabs Bassam Aid and Abuz Aid), the conspirators hatched their scheme to invade the rock fortress.

The giant Rock Against Israel concert, though not supported by Barbra Streisand, is set to humiliate the Jewish people. It will draw a whole host of names from the music business, including scratch DJ MC Mubarak, with the Butcher of Baghdad on bass, and harmonies by backing singers the Mad Mullahs of Mecca and the Mustachioed Mujahadeen.

It's not yet known whether Assad and the Alawites will boycott the event due to the not-long-awaited return of "King" Hussein and the Hashemites. Local crooner Yasser "A Boy Named Suha" Arafat will not miss the opportunity to showcase his talents. The veteran entertainer, whose trademark battle-fatigues costume and George Michael wannabe stubble have been a regular feature of the charts for several decades, should wow the crowds with his radical improvised reworkings of

"Jerusalem." "By the Rivers of Babylon (Where I Kissed Ass)," and "The Monkey and the Engineer."

But top billing goes to new local band Islamic Yee-ha, famous for such country and western overgreens as "Stand by your Machine Gun," "The Devil Went Down to Gaza," and "Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini." (sub-editor: please check)

In his endless quest for the Palestinian vote, President Clinton is set to play the sax. And the government's craven efforts to curry favor with the Americans will be symbolized by the presence of rappers Peres & the Fabulous Poodles, and oldtimers the Bee-Gees (named after the first prime minister). Liberals and lefties will be hoping that the band, which features Bailing, Bawak and Boig, will sing their classic hits such as "How Deep is Your Statehood?"

It's all a sad testimony to show that peace with our enemies remains as elusive as ever. We bring the public's attention to this danger not because we've succeeded in cooking up a new conspiracy but to reveal the latest example of the Netanyahu government's shameless, shameful and shaming negligence.

Next week: A plot to destabilize the Jewish state.

GRIPEVINE

Wiseguy falls for Clinton

by FREER GAY TRASHCAN

Who says our country has no empathy? When Fulbright scholar and former Arkansas Governor President Bill Clinton was on his way back from the Abraham Lincoln suite after entertaining his new Asian friend Mian E. Guy with scrumptious lemon tarts and fine, freshly-brewed coffee, he tripped over Socks the cat, who was frolicking in the hallway with none other than Millie, the best-selling author and pet of former first lady Barbara Bush. Clinton's broken leg might have inspired our own President, Ezer Wiseguy, who claims to know his way around a helicopter better than he knows how knit socks, to trip off the helicopter pad and sustain similar injuries. Some suggest that Weizman had to go this far to keep diplomatic relations intact.

SPEAKING of legs, Sara Netanyahu, whose own off-black control-top panty hose once lasted throughout an entire tete-a-tete with former Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul Karim al-Kabarti, presented this year's best import of the year awards to the Jewish Zionist Hosiery Association. Netanyahu graciously presented the MVP award to marketing manager Dorothy Willinger, creator of brands such as "Brown Gurion," "Purple Herzi" and "Pink Peres." Sara half-joked that she would like to see the brand "BB blue" enter the annals of Zionist hosiery.

MEANWHILE, down at the other end of Hayarkon Street in Tel Aviv - where a Madonna poster decorated one storefront - Zev Shiff, third cousin to the neighbor of the estranged stepdaughter of Uziel Umbeshtitsyn, who is soon to be Ambassador from the tumultuous Albania, went to work as usual, taking news of the posting in his stride.

ONE fact that Woodwardesque Ayala Hasson didn't have sources for was what the police

found on their raid of the house of attorney-general for a day Roni Bar-Off. In his portable swing closet, which sells at Gravitza for NIS 500, hung a few bikinis and seductive one-pieces from Geton Oberson's newest women's swimwear collection. The one- and two-piece bathing suits, which come in a full array of pastel tones to show off that deep buff tan, have not been offered to the stores yet. Bar-Off initially said that former intern Tzoris Hanegbi, himself a suit wearer (two piece, winter wool) offered him the collection before it was out. MK Seemor Livnat intimated that Bar-On had no business with a women's collection in the first place. Dudi Yarkoni, manager of the exclusive Ulam Achi confirmed that Bar-on, in his celebratory banquet which was postponed indefinitely because of investigations, was going to use the swimsuit collections for a "faux" drag show. Looks like New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani got a leg up on him.

CONGRATULATIONS to The Jerusalem Pest's paperboy Ralph Salem, 18, who delivered his 10,000th Pest this month to cat-owner and plastic cutlery design industry doyen, Joe Smith. Smith was not the only dignitary at the intimate gathering for Salem, which took place at The Jerusalem Pest's office amid tray upon tray of Bissli, a snack product owned by Australian magnate Fizzy Libeler, and a couple of bottles of no-frills Coo-Coo for Cola soft drink.

Shmulk Levy, The Jerusalem Pest's printing press manager for the past 120 years, and Anatoly Dyevetchky, The Jerusalem Pest's guard of their exclusive new parking lot for the last two weeks, were a perfect combination of something old and something new. Borrowed was Salem's remark in his award acceptance speech: "You like me! You really like me!" Which would have left even Places in the Heart's Sally Field feeling blue.

VIEW FROM NOWHERE IN PARTICULAR

I've lost my train of thought

By MOISSE CONEHEAD

Some people will say that words like "scum" and "rotten" are wrong for Objective Journalism - which is true, but they miss the point. (Hunter S. Thompson, Better than Sex).

How wonderful to find a good quote with an erudite excuse to put "sex" at the start of my weekly screed and so impress one's circle (albeit narrow) of enlightened friends, while confusing whatever lefty rabble manage to get beyond the first paragraph!

Now where was I? Sex. No! I mean, yes. Sex was, of course, important in peopling the glorious Eretz Israel up to all its flexible but immovable frontiers (frontiers: from Old French *bordure*, Span. *bordello* - to go as far as you like).

Wherever those "frontiers" are at the moment, it is worth pausing to say "yah, boo, nady-nady" to alleged Rais Ar-a-rat and so-called ex-prime minister Vulture. (Vulture, from Latin *pers. peres*, but definitely not person.)

Be that as it may, or "not be," (Hamlet III.i.56) and, to paraphrase that pinko dropout disgusting anarchist Hunter S. Thompson, (Hunter, cf. Nimrod; S. as in snake, Thompson, Old Finnish son; of Rebbe Thom) whose subversive "scum and rotten" columns made him rich so why not mine? Who said life was fair to the wise and just?

As well as wondering what I'm babbling about, you may also wonder why I'm writing this under the table. (If you had not gleamed that from the context, you're too dumb to be reading this clever column - ask the editor to bring back the simplistic *Spy on the Media* which I could write better anyway and often did and that opinionated leftist, David Burling-On, never noticed.)

Ah, yes, under the table. The king's son was mad and sat under the table, thinking he was a turkey. So the wise man joined him and said "I too am a turkey." (Rebbe Nachman of Breslov).

Yes indeed, now you got it. I am the turkey under your weekly table whom only the intellectual princes among our readers will recognize as the truly wise man.

Only the more foolhardy leftist

turkeys out there will jump to the conclusion that they are princes (hah hah!) and that it is really I who am mad.

Sadly, too many of my own Jewish brethren often miss the point and I have to wait for a word of understanding from some damn guy. Like the "good Carolina Christian" who wrote to me: "Please come from under the table. O wise one, and join my family as the turkey 'above table' next Thanksgiving."

I can only say a simple thank you for offering to "honor the turkey in your midst."

SINCE by now you probably have no idea what I'm talking about (excellent!) let us now get into our full pretentious stride.

It is clear there are no differences in a Cappadocian or Sephoric proto-ancient, within the context of the stylistic idiosyncrasies between the Raya Mehemma and the Tikkunim, except (of course) where the Hebrew root projects tendencies of ebb and flow (in Kabbalistic terms anyway) between hitpashtut and hitaklut.

It took a Lurianic anti-Sabbatmanism with its dangerous amalgam of neutralization and denuclearization to lead to a point, in a sentence such as this, where one has covered oneself with enough blue smoke and mirrors of incomprehensible erudite gibberish to make the serious point one really wanted to make all along.

Which is - Good old Bibi! For he hath thrown the Vulture and his rat pack, and their terroristic-Arab-loving wimpy peacenik lackeys, and Aviv Geffen and his sex- and drug-crazed groupies, and the goyische bacon-eating rabble from Sheinkin into the wilderness and the trashcans of Tel Aviv.

As the learned Yosef, Rebbe of Ovadia, once so unwisely said in front of a microphone: "Every syphilitic and leper was made a Knesset member to tell us what to do."

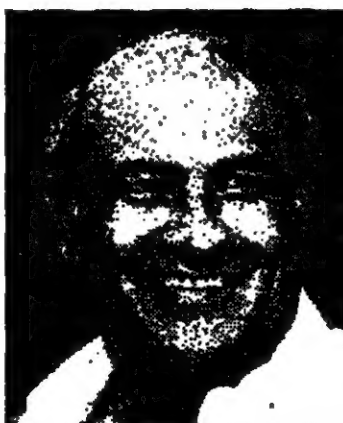
How true, but we with the amulets "did" vote the "right" ones in this time. Right? Right!

For it was written "The wolf shall devour the lamb ... and the turkeys shall rule the earth from Kiryat Arba yea unto Har Homa, and even the nannies in the House of Orient shall tremble." (Netanyahu, Mrs. 36:24:36)

"So it is written. So let it be done!" (Yul Brynner in a lousy Pharaonic accent, *The Ten Commandments*, by Cecil B. de Mille).

Separated at birth?

Now it can be told: Some major public figures have near-twins, Morris Ayin reports



Avigdor Kahalani and Marion Brando: Making the no-goodniks an offer they can't refuse?



King Hussein and Sean Connery: Officers and gentlemen?



Bottom photos: Speak for themselves.



You're in Israel Drive like an Israeli

SPORTS

in brief

Seles wins in first match of '97

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — Monica Seles began another comeback with a victory in the Lipton Championships in her first match this year.

Seles beat Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 on Friday. The match was Seles' first since she broke her right index finger while catching a ball in December. Her return was delayed because her father, Karolj, has been undergoing chemotherapy for stomach cancer.

The match was Seles' first in the Lipton since 1992, and the first in her home state since she became a US citizen in 1994.

Kings fire head coach Garry St. Jean

SACRAMENTO, Ca. (Reuters) — Garry St. Jean, who coached the Sacramento Kings to their first playoff berth in 10 years but never finished above .500 in four-plus seasons, was fired Thursday.

Eddie Jordan, hired by St. Jean as an assistant five years ago, will take over the 28-39 team for the remainder of the season. Assistant vice president of basketball operations Wayne Cooper will join assistants Mike Bratz and Pete Carril on the bench.

In his four-plus seasons with the Kings, St. Jean had a 159-236 (.403) record. He was an assistant under Don Nelson with the Golden State Warriors before joining the Kings.

UEFA may abandon Intertoto Cup

NYON, Switzerland (Reuters) — UEFA has hinted it might scrap the Intertoto Cup because of a lack of interest.

"In terms of the books (accounts) the picture is not very heartening," general secretary Gerhard Aigner wrote in the March edition of UEFA's monthly bulletin.

"The promotion of the competition suffers from the absence of clubs from the large associations, which means that the market is rather restricted."

"...this situation has not improved, and there are moreover no signs that it will improve in forthcoming seasons."

The English, Italian and Spanish football associations all declined to take part in this year's close season tournament, despite the lure of three UEFA Cup places.

Trouser-dropping coach banned for 14 months

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) — A Brazilian coach has been banned from the bench for 14 months after he ran on to the pitch during a match and dropped his trousers.

Itapiruna coach Paulo Mata lost his temper when his team conceded a controversial goal and then had three players sent off during last week's 3-2 home defeat to Vasco da Gama in the Rio de Janeiro championship.

He charged on to the field, ripped off his shirt and ran towards the referee. When police stopped his progress he then ripped his trousers, before being led away ranting at the officials. He later announced he was abandoning football because he was tired of being "scandalously robbed."

Newcastle float valued at \$307 million

LONDON (Reuters) — English premier league club Newcastle said on Friday that their stock market flotation valued the club at £193 million (\$307.4 million).

The offering of 40 million shares was priced at 135 pence (215 cents) per share and would raise £54 million for the club, a statement from Newcastle's investment bank NatWest Markets said. Dealing in the shares will begin on April 2.

England, Fiji advance to rugby sevens last-8

HONG KONG (AP) — Defending champions England had to battle hard to beat Cook Islands but topped Fiji crushed Wales and Namibia yesterday as the English and Fijians advanced to the quarterfinals of the Rugby World Cup Sevens tournament.

Fielding five players from the squad that won the inaugural title in Scotland four years ago, the English whipped Canada 30-7 before battling to a 29-10 victory over the Cook Islands in Pool F.

The Cook Islands, who upset Canada 5-0 earlier, held England to 10-10 at halftime before succumbing in the second half before a capacity 40,000 crowd at the Hong Kong Stadium.

The Fijians, underlined their status as favorites to win the tournament after brushing aside Namibia 66-0, and Wales 35-0 in Pool A.

South Africa were the second-ranked team after yesterday's group play with victories over Ireland 34-7 and Hong Kong 29-5 in Pool B.

In the quarterfinals, South Africa face Five Nations champions France, who won Pool D with a 26-0 victory over Romania and a 40-7

triumph over the US. New Zealand, the winners of the last three Hong Kong Sevens, defeated Japan 47-0, and Tonga 31-5 in Pool E. The Kiwis face their old rivals Australia in the quarterfinals.

Australia, with star winger David Campese making his final appearance, struggled to a 26-7 win over Portugal in Pool H.

The Australians then went on to beat Scotland 31-19, although the Scots scored two late tries.

Western Samoa face England in the quarterfinals. The Samoans, the 1993 Hong Kong Sevens champions, blanked Morocco 42-0 and then defeated Argentina 28-12 in Pool C.

After battling to a 12-12 tie with Spain, the South Koreans beat Zimbabwe 21-10. Spain managed a 19-12 victory over Zimbabwe.

The 24 teams were divided into eight groups of three, with the winner in each group advancing to the main Melrose Cup competition after two days of group play.

ICC seeks new markets and fresh formats

LONDON (Reuters) — Cricket, born and nurtured on the English green, seeks new markets and fresh formats as the sporting world hurtles towards the millennium.

"It is obvious that there is an urgent need to develop the game, both among existing cricket countries and in new areas," an interim report from the International Cricket Council's development committee said.

"If this is not done, cricket will be under threat from other sporting codes and leisure activities." Two radical initiatives suggested by the committee include an annual one-day tournament at Disneyland, Florida, and a biennial World Cup in place of the present four-yearly competition.

"Internationally televised cricket is our No. 1 marketing tool to give global exposure to the game, to inspire our youth to play the game and promote the role models of the game," the reports says.

Disneyland, home of manufactured childhood dreams, is light years removed from pre-industrial England where rural laborers whiled away the long summer nights with bat and ball.

But cricket, in common with other sports, has always had to fight for its existence.

W.G. Grace brought glamor and mass popularity to the game in the Victorian age and

helped cricket to evolve into a sport which could be adapted by the public schools and spread across the British Empire.

The sport gained rather than lost support during Australia in the great depression as Don Bradman symbolized the aspirations of thousands of his countrymen and it became something akin to a religion in the West Indies through the exploits of Learie Constantine, George Headley and Garfield Sobers.

Kerry Packer, who briefly hijacked the game in the late 1970s when he signed up the world's best players for a rival tournament, outraged the traditionalists but brought the game into the modern era with day-night one-day matches and colored clothing.

Outwardly the world game seems healthy, with a global television audience of 1.5 billion for last year's World Cup staged in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

However, ICC members are acutely aware that the battle for spectators and television revenues is more bitter than ever.

"I don't want to spell doom," said committee chairman Ali Bacher, former captain of one of the great South African sides.

"But we have got to recognize that if we don't do anything about it we could have an acute problem...we have to get more people playing." Bacher believes the way forward is to package the game appropriately for its audience.

To entice an American audience, whose atten-

Arizona stuns Kansas; Providence, N. Carolina, Louisville advance

Minnesota, Kentucky, Utah, UCLA also win in NCAA tourney

NEW YORK (AP) — Kansas was the No. 1 team in college basketball almost all season, but the Jayhawks won't be No. 1 when the season's over.

Arizona, which was knocked out of the tournament by Kansas last year, used its quickness to stun the bigger Jayhawks 85-82 Friday night and advance to the Southeast Regional final.

"The thing I loved all week long was their attitude," Arizona coach Lute Olson said. "It was like, 'You think we're in awe of them? We're not in awe of anybody.'"

Freshman Mike Bibby scored 21 points and Michael Dickerson added 20 for fourth-seeded Arizona (22-9) will play 10th-seeded Providence today for a berth in the Final Four.

Providence, which nearly blew an NCAA bid at the end of the regular season, advanced with a 71-65 win over 14th-seeded Tennessee-Chattanooga in the late game at Birmingham, Alabama.

At the East Regional in Syracuse, New York, fourth-seeded Louisville overcame the loss of star DeJuan Wheat with a severe ankle sprain and beat No. 10 Texas 78-63 to reach the final eight.

The Cardinals' opponent in today's regional final will be top-seeded North Carolina, which overcame a seven-point deficit midway through the second half to defeat fifth-seeded California 63-57.

The other regional finals last night were top-seeded Minnesota (30-3) vs. No. 2 UCLA (24-7) in the Midwest, and top-seeded Kentucky (33-4) vs. No. 2 Utah (29-3) in the West.

On Thursday, the four games went into overtime — and one of



UNEXPECTED DELIGHT — Arizona's A.J. Bramlett raises his arms in victory as Kansas's Jacques Vaughn leaves the court in disappointment following the defeat of the Southwest top seeds 85-82. (Reuters)

the three into double OT. Top regional seeds Minnesota and Kentucky and second seeds

Utah and UCLA all won to move one victory away from the Final Four in Indianapolis.

In the Midwest Region semifinal in San Antonio, Bobby Jackson scored a career-high 36

Jordan rules as Bulls defeat Pacers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Michael Jordan vs. Reggie Miller was no contest Friday night as Jordan scored 36 points and helped lead Miller to 18 as the Chicago Bulls defeated the Indiana Pacers 117-98.

Jordan shot 11-of-25 from the field and hit 13 of 14 free throws as he topped the 30-point mark for the 38th time this season, including 11 of his last 15 games.

Miller, meanwhile, had little room to shoot against Jordan and was 5-of-17 from the field, including 2-for-10 from 3-point range.

Scottie Pippen scored 18, Luc Longley and Steve Kerr had 15 each and Dennis Rodman grabbed 19 rebounds. Rick Smith led five Indiana players in double figures with 20.

Heat 98, Lakers 97 In Miami, Willie Anderson hit two free throws with 17.4 seconds left after a basket by Elden Campbell was waved off, and Nick Van Exel missed a jumper at the buzzer as Miami beat Los Angeles.

Voshon Lenard paced Miami with 25 points, while Tim Hardaway and Jamal Mashburn added 21 each.

A 3-pointer by Hardaway, one of 15 by Miami, pulled the Heat to 97-96 with 48.8 seconds left. Van Exel missed a free throw after the Heat were given a technical foul for illegal defense, and Jerome Kersey missed a baseline jumper.

Campbell tipped in Kersey's miss, but the basket was waved off and Campbell was called for a loose ball foul on Anderson.

Anderson's free throws put Miami on top, and Van Exel missed a 16-foot jumper at the buzzer.

76ers 112, Nets 110 In Philadelphia, Derrick Coleman's follow-up dunk with two seconds remaining gave Philadelphia a win over New Jersey and broke the Sixers' three-game losing streak.

Coleman's basket came seconds after Sam Cassell was hit with a technical foul by referee Jack Nies for taunting. Cassell had been fouled by Iverson and sank two free

throws to put the Nets up 110-109. Stackhouse made the technical, then drove to the basket on the ensuing possession and missed, but Coleman was there for the follow.

Stackhouse had 31 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter. Kendall Gill scored 33 points and Cassell had 28 as New Jersey.

Hawks 93, Mavericks 72 In Atlanta, Mookie Blaylock scored 20 points and Christian Laettner had 18 in leading Atlanta over Dallas.

The Mavericks trailed by 20 in the third quarter, but Shawn Bradley made a layup to cut the deficit to nine points, 81-72 with five minutes left. Atlanta then ran off 12 unanswered points to ice its third straight win.

Thursday's Games: Orlando 100, Golden State 95; L.A. Lakers 89, Cleveland 76; Portland 97, Milwaukee 78; Houston 96, Washington 90; Phoenix 113, San Antonio 104; Seattle 123, Denver 97.

Friday's Games: Orlando 104, Boston 99; Charlotte 102, Toronto 97; Philadelphia 112, New Jersey 100; Miami 96, L.A. Lakers 97; Atlanta 93, Dallas 72; Detroit 112, Minnesota 98; Chicago 117, Indiana 98; Vancouver 108, Denver 101; Sacramento 114, San Antonio 110 OT.

Sabres nail down playoff berth with win over Capitals

LANDOVER, Maryland (Reuters) — The Buffalo Sabres Friday became the fifth National Hockey League team to clinch a playoff berth with a 4-1 victory over the Washington Capitals.

Jason Dawe scored twice and Mike Peca had a goal and an assist for the Sabres, who joined Colorado, Dallas, Philadelphia and New Jersey as teams that have booked passage into the post-season battle for the Stanley Cup.

Steve Shields made 30 saves in place of the injured Dominik Hasek as Buffalo won for the fourth time in five games despite tying a franchise-low with a mere 12 shots on the Washington goal.

Buffalo is 13-3-6 in its last 22 games and moved within one point of second place New Jersey and three of first-place Philadelphia in the Eastern Conference chase for home ice advantage through the playoffs.

Dawe's 21st goal gave the Sabres a 2-1 lead with 6:10 left in the second period. He added his 22nd at 12:14 of the third to open a two-goal cushion.

Peter Bondra was the only Capital to get the puck past Shields, scoring his team-leading 43rd goal for Washington.

In New York, Russ Courtnall's short-handed goal broke a second-period tie and Glenn Healy made 33 saves as the Rangers beat the Detroit Red Wings 3-1.

Mark Messier and Wayne Gretzky also scored for New York. Messier's 35th goal just 3:13 into the game was career number 574, moving him past Mike Bossy into sole possession of 10th place on the all-time list.

Thursday's Games: Florida 2, Ottawa 2; Pittsburgh 6, Toronto 4; Chicago 2, St. Louis 4; Hartford 1, San Jose 2; Vancouver 1.

Friday's Games: N.Y. Rangers 3, Detroit 1; Buffalo 4, Washington 1; Dallas 2, Hartford 0; Colorado 4, Anaheim 3; Tampa Bay 4, Calgary 3, OT.

Patient Bacher puts South Africa on top in third Test v. Aussies

PRETORIA (Reuters) — Opener Adam Bacher batted throughout the day to post a patient, unbeaten 94 and put South Africa in command on the second day of the third and final Test against Australia at Centurion Park yesterday.

The 23-year-old Transvaal batsman provided a study in concentration as South Africa reached 240 for three at the close — a lead of 13 over Australia who were bowled out for 227 on Friday.

Bacher's innings was spread over six hours five minutes after he had taken 50 minutes to get off the mark in the morning session.

He cut out the hook shot which had twice led to his downfall in the series but still struck 11 boundaries, including a six over midwicket off the luckless Shane Warne.

With Brian McMillan hitting 55 to become the first South African number three to score a

first innings half-century in the 20 Tests of coach Bob Woolmer's reign the home batsman finally struck back against the Australian bowlers.

South Africa had been bowled out for 302 and 130 in losing the Johannesburg Test and 209 and 168 in suffering a similar fate at Port Elizabeth.

Neither Bacher or McMillan gave a chance although both repeatedly played and missed against leg-spinner Shane Warne.

McMillan was also twice struck on the helmet attempting to hook Jason Gillespie bouncers while Bacher was struck painfully on the hand and elbow.

The second wicket pair posted South Africa's first century partnership of the series, putting on 102 for the second wicket.

McMillan, who hit eight boundaries, was finally out after two and three quarter hours when he was caught at short leg

points, grabbed nine rebounds and hit a series of key shots down the stretch as Minnesota rallied from a six-point deficit in the first overtime for a 90-84 double-overtime victory over fourth-seeded Clemson.

Jackson became the first player in over three years to score more than 30 points for Minnesota, which improved to 8-0 against ranked teams this season.

Sam Jacobson added 29 points for Minnesota (30-3). Greg Buckner led Clemson (23-10) with 22 points before fouling out. The Golden Gophers, who won their first two contests by an average of 25.5 points, will face UCLA in the regional finals on Saturday.

Cameron Dollar's driving layup with 1.9 seconds to go in overtime lifted UCLA, past sixth-seeded Iowa State, 74-73.

Kenny Pratt missed a free throw with 14 seconds remaining and UCLA's Kris Johnson grabbed the rebound but was whistled for travelling. Jacy Holloway inbounded the ball for Iowa State (22-9) and lofted a high pass to Shawn Bankhead, who dunked the ball for a 73-72 advantage.

Dollar took the inbounds pass and drove the length of the court before lofting a high, arching shot over Jacy Holloway and off the glass for the winning basket.

Iowa State called time out but was unable to inbound the ball, forcing a turnover.

Dollar finished with a career-high 20 points. "Before the play, coach had already given me the go-ahead to break it down and go to the rack, so I was already in that frame of mind," Dollar said.

The Bruins (24-7), the national champions two years ago, are in the regional finals for the third time in six years.

Dedric Willoughby had 34 points, including eight three-pointers, for the Cyclones.

At the NCAA West Region semifinal in San Jose, California, second-seeded Utah blew a 14-point halftime lead but recovered for an 82-77 victory over sixth-seeded Stanford.

Michael Doleac scored eight of his 16 points in overtime for Utah.

Keith Van Horn scored 25 points before fouling out for Utah (29-3).

The Utes are in the regional finals for the first time since 1966, when they advanced to the Final Four.

PA arrests five Hamas activists

By JON IMMANUEL

Five Hamas activists, including the recently released Ibrahim Makadmeh, were arrested by the Palestinian Police on Friday, Gaza security sources reported.

Speaking at an Islamic Salvation

party in Jerusalem, Makadmeh, who was released from Israeli custody last week, lauded Friday's suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, saying "the mujahedin should blow up the enemies of Allah to stop the bulldozers of Netanyahu."

His words were greeted with cheers from many in the crowd of 10,000. Makadmeh said attacks will continue until "Netanyahu curses the day his mother bore him."

Arafat ordered Makadmeh released three weeks ago after he was held a year without charges.

The move was an apparent gesture to Hamas, to encourage its participation in a dialogue with the Palestinian Authority, and as a sign to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that suppressing Hamas could not continue if Israel took actions that embarrassed him.

PA Minister of Communication Imad Falouji, who once was a senior Hamas activist, attended the Khan Yunis rally and said afterwards that he regretted the attack "but Israel pushed us to this."

Sheikh Ahmed Baher, a leading Hamas preacher, called on the PA to "to open camps to train every Palestinian in the use of guns" and to end all talks with Israel.

The rally was attended by Abdullah Shami, an Islamic Jihad spokesman who has not been seen publicly since his release from jail six months after the Beit Lid suicide bombing in January 1995. Upon his release he pledged to look for peaceful ways to work with the PA. On Friday he said, "We should

throw this Oslo agreement which disunites us into the garbage can of history. Palestine - Jaffa, Haifa, Ramle - is calling us to liberate it with all means."

Several Fatah supporters also attended the rally. Nahed Rayess of the legislative council, called for unity to "confront the policy of taking Jerusalem from us."

Elli Wohlgelemer adds:

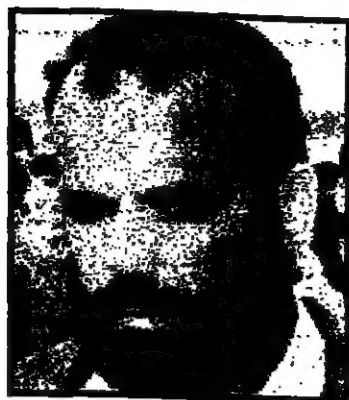
At Har Homa all was quiet yesterday, after some 200 Palestinians demonstrated there on Friday. Three policemen were injured by thrown rocks; one of them was seen bleeding after being hit in the head. Two IDF soldiers were also lightly injured.

Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said the demonstrators tried to march down to the construction site from the nearby village of Umm Tuba, but police chased them back up the hill. Protesters also burned tires and chanted "Netanyahu, you have no business here." "Now it is a war of the people, not of diplomacy," said stone-thrower Khalil Kawasmech, 17. "We want to teach Bibi a lesson, that when he challenges an entire nation, he cannot win."

There were 1,200 extra police reinforcements on duty on Friday, both at Har Homa and on the Temple Mount. Ben-Ruby said there were no disturbances on the Temple Mount over the weekend.

Seven youths were arrested yesterday afternoon during disturbances in Nazareth that followed a march and rally organized by the Islamic Movement.

Following the rally, youths started to throw stones and bottles at policemen and at a police car. The police car's windows were broken, and several other cars were also damaged.



Ibrahim Makadmeh (Reuters)



Palestinian Police attempt to stop protesters throwing stones at IDF soldiers during clashes in Hebron yesterday. (Reuters)

HEBRON

Continued from Page 1

them when they tried to engage Israeli troops more closely. The clashes were some 100 meters from Shuhada Street, near where dozens of settlers live.

Behind the rioters were thousands of chanting supporters, shouting "down with peace, up with Hamas" and "Allah is Great." Twice they

burned the Israeli flag to excited chanting before charging down the road toward Israeli positions.

Preventive Security Chief Jibril Rajoub, now stationed in Hebron, rushed down from Jerusalem on Friday. Yesterday he appeared periodically on Shallah Street during the rioting and then left without intervening.

Rajoub was in contact with the IDF, and in H2, Israeli officers speaking Arabic into field tele-

phones could be heard conversing with Palestinian officers.

"We have the determination and the ability to control the situation but the reason is very great because of Netanyahu's crazy policy," Rajoub told reporters.

Regarding the settlers' complaints about the IDF response, the IDF Spokesman said that on Friday the army sent additional forces to Hebron and that the army had stressed to the Palestinians that they

were responsible for maintaining the peace under their jurisdiction. The IDF said the spokesman, will continue to safeguard the Jewish community in Hebron.

In an unrelated incident on Friday night, a busload of children from the Jordan Valley settlement of Na'ama were hit with stones in Oudja. According to Jordan Valley settlement spokeswoman Tami Atiya, there were no injuries.

US vetoes second UN Har Homa resolution

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - For the second time in two weeks, the US on Friday cast a veto in the UN Security Council to block a resolution that would have called on Israel to stop construction on Jerusalem's Har Homa, though it cautioned that its veto did not indicate American support for the project.

The 15-member council also issued a statement expressing its "revulsion" at the suicide bombing at Tel Aviv's Apropo cafe.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan condemned the Tel Aviv bombing. In a statement, Annan also appealed to the parties "not to allow odi-

ous acts of this nature to derail the peace process."

Friday's failed resolution was considered milder than its predecessor, which the US vetoed on March 7. Unlike the first resolution, Friday's resolution did not refer to the Har Homa project as "illegal." Instead, it called for Israel to "immediately cease construction of the Har Homa settlement in East Jerusalem as well as all other Israeli settlement activities in the occupied territories."

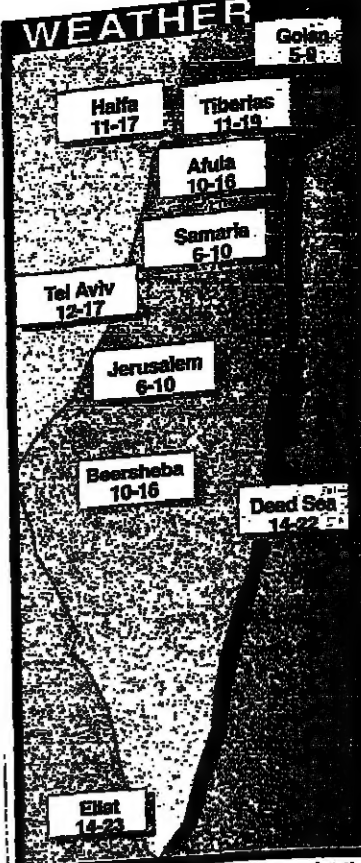
The vote was 13-1, with the US voting against. Costa Rica abstained. The resolution had been sponsored by Egypt. The US cautioned that its veto should not be

misunderstood.

"No one should interpret the opposition of my government to this resolution as an expression of support for the construction now going on at Har Homa-Jebel Abu Ghneim. It is not," US Ambassador Bill Richardson said Friday.

Richardson repeated that the UN is not the appropriate forum to debate the peace process, adding that "such interference can only harden the positions of both sides."

After the first US veto, the General Assembly on March 13 overwhelmingly passed a resolution condemning the Har Homa project. Assembly votes, however, are not binding.



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	PRECIP
Amsterdam	10	15	cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	28	rain
Calcutta	24	34	cloudy
Chicago	24	34	cloudy
Copenhagen	10	15	cloudy
Frankfurt	10	15	cloudy
Geneva	10	15	cloudy
Helsinki	10	15	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	24	rain
London	10	15	cloudy
Los Angeles	18	24	cloudy
Madrid	10	15	cloudy
Moscow	10	15	cloudy
New York	18	24	cloudy
Paris	10	15	cloudy
Rome	10	15	cloudy
Stockholm	10	15	cloudy
Sydney	18	24	cloudy
Tokyo	18	24	cloudy
Vienna	10	15	cloudy
Zurich	10	15	cloudy

Winning cards

The winning cards in Friday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance drawing were the king of spades, the ace of hearts, the queen of diamonds and the 10 of clubs.

Peres, Barak fail to narrow gap over unity gov't

By SARAH HONG

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres and would-be party leader Ehud Barak conferred on Friday over the national unity government controversy, which has thrown Labor into turmoil. The two, who are on opposite sides of the issue, failed to convince each other nor to narrow the gap between them, though they may soon meet again. This intention to keep talking is seen in Labor as the one auspicious outcome of the talks.

The two met in a Tel Aviv restaurant along with Labor activist Giora Eini, who for many years was the behind the scenes go-between and conciliator in Peres's feuds with the late Yitzhak Rabin.

Though no formal invitation to join the government has come from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Peres enthusiastically supports Labor's participation in a unity government, while Barak hotly opposes it.

Peres argues that Labor's entry into a broad coalition is necessary in order to protect the peace process. Most Labor insiders agree, however, that Peres must lead Labor into a unity coalition soon in order to enter it as the leading Labor representative and thus cement his leadership before Barak replaces him as party chairman in June.

Because it is in Peres's interest to join the government, it is equally in Barak's interest not to do so. Barak confirmed last night that he spoke with Peres, but would not comment on what was said. The meeting came after Peres and Barak clashed vociferously last Thursday at the Labor central committee, when Peres pushed for national unity and Barak said the only action Labor should take regarding Netanyahu is to bring him down.

BOMBING

Continued from Page 1

throughout the downtown area, blew out windows of nearby buildings and vehicles. Furniture and people were hurled meters from the scene, some into the middle of Sderot Ben-Gurion.

Apropos shift manager Ro'i described what he saw seconds before the bomb exploded opposite him.

"I saw a strange man, scruffily dressed, sit down at a table outside on the terrace," he said weeping. "The waitress was just about to go outside when there was a terrific boom. Everything was hurled in all directions. I tried to help a woman whose leg had been crushed to smithereens. Everyone was screaming."

Minutes later some 20 Magen-David ambulances arrived at the scene to evacuate the wounded to the city's Ichilov and Wolfson hospitals and to Tel Hashomer's Sheba and Petah Tikva's Beilinson-Rabin Campus hospitals. Massive forces of police, headed by the city's police chief, Cmdr. Shlomo Aharonishky, and backed up by Civil Guard volunteers, border policemen, and other forces, arrived and sealed off the area.

Bomb squad officers, helped by explosive-sniffing dogs, scoured the surrounding areas for possible additional bombs, but none was found. The Hevra Kadisha's identification squad also arrived to search for body parts and to help identify the victims.

"We have had warnings of possible attacks recently, but we were not notified of specific places," police Insp.-Gen. Assaf Heifetz said at the scene. He denied that increased forces in the Har Homa area and other problematic districts in the territories may have facilitated the terrorist's entry to Tel Aviv.

"We don't want to put the public in a state of panic or to force people to stay home," he added. "There are constant warnings of attacks. Now we have to guard the various events during Purim and maybe increase forces even afterwards."

Former ambassador to the UN Gad Ya'acobi was sitting inside the packed restaurant at the time of the blast.

"I was only lightly injured," he said. "I saw dozens of people

strewn on the floor. Doors were wrenched from their hinges from the impact of the blast."

Children, some in their Purim costumes - including the baby Shani - were lightly wounded.

"Even before the attack we were on full alert in readiness for possible attacks before and during Purim," said Aharonishky. "But we cannot hermetically seal off all sites, public places, or restaurants." Police arrested 19 Palestinians illegally in Israel during raids Friday night and yesterday.

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, after consultation with security authorities, announced yesterday that Purim celebrations would continue in the city, and reiterated that Tel Aviv would not surrender to terror.

PM

Continued from Page 1

terrorist activity.

"We will not let this terrible crime go unanswered, we will react according to our policy and will not compromise," Netanyahu said. "The idea that we should be extorted by heinous murderers, that the murderers of children and women should tell us not to build in Jerusalem and what to do, does not occur to me even for a fraction of a moment."

"Anyone who thinks this nation can be vanquished by terrorist bombs doesn't know it. The nation is much stronger than they imagine and they won't defeat it, and we will know what steps to take to make this clear."

Batsheva Tsor adds: Egypt President Hosni Mubarak and Arafat called President Ezer Weizman following the bombing to express their condolences to the families of those killed and to send wishes of recovery to the wounded. Weizman received a similar call from US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

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